Thursday, August 10, 1961
Sravana 19, 1883 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, the August 10, 1961/ Sravana 19, 1883 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Exports to Pakistan

*286. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian exporters have been warned not to export any goods to Pakistan without establishing an irrevocable letter of credit in their favour; and

(b) if so, the reasons for and full details of the warning given?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) and (b). It was reported in certain cases that Pakistani importers were not able to produce import licences before their Customs Authorities for the goods ordered from India and this resulted in confiscation and auction of such goods, thereby putting Indian exporters to financial losses. This position was brought to the notice of Export Promotion Councils and Commodity Boards in order to enable them to advise our traders to export goods to Pakistan only after irrevocable letters of credit had been established in their favour.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: Usually, the letter of credit will be opened by the shippers and so forth. How are the Indian parties to ensure that there is a letter of credit on this side? How will it be possible for them to ensure this?

Shri Satish Chandra: The letter of credit is opened by the importer in favour of exporter, and information is received through a bank that the letter of credit has been opened. They should ship their goods only after the letter of credit has been established in their favour.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि जो सामान वहां पर रोक दिया गया है उस की कीमत क्या होगी और उस का होगा क्या ?

श्री सतीश चन्द्र : उस के आंकड़े नहीं हैं लेकिन वह सामान जब्त हो जाता है । उस को नीलाम कर देते हैं और उस का रुपया भी वह नहीं भेजते । पाकिस्तान सरकार का कानून इस प्रकार का है और वह उन्हों ने कुछ ऐसा बनाया है कि उस में अगर बगैर इम्पोर्ट लाइसेंस के कोई माल वहां पहुंच जाये तो वह उस को नीलाम कर देते हैं और उस की रकम भी अपने पास रख लेते हैं और वह भी वापिस नहीं करते हैं ।

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: Is is not a fact that through this sort of thing, Pakistan has got a great deal of revenue from India at the cost of the Indian exporter?

Shri Satish Chandra: There have been cases like this, and therefore, this step has been taken, and it is for the Indian parties to see that they are not put to a loss and such income does not accrue to the Pakistan Government.

Shri Tyagi: What is our latest trade balance with Pakistan? How much did we export and how much did we import from Pakistan last year?

Shri Satish Chandra: In 1960 we exported goods worth Rs. 10·12 crores, and imported goods worth Rs. 15·18 crores from Pakistan.

Shri Tyagi: Adverse balance.

Tibetan Refugees

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*287. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:**
Shri Radha Raman:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Chuni Lal:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri Muhammed Elias:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri Daljit Singh:
Shri P. G. Deb:
Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria:
Shri K. B. Malvia:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether tightening of checks in Tibetan border has resulted in decreasing influx of Tibetan refugees into India;

(b) number of Tibetan refugees who came to India during each of the months from March to July 1961 and through each of the passes and how do their number compare with the Tibetan refugees who came during the corresponding period last year;

(c) the details of the steps taken to rehabilitate them in various parts of the country;

(d) whether any instances have come to the notice of Government where Chinese spies also entered India in the garb of refugees; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) to (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 63].

(d) and (e). We have come across a few Tibetans whose *bona fides* as refugees could not be established. Adequate measures have been taken and continue to be taken to deal with such cases.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know the extent to which the Government of India has accepted the responsibility of rehabilitating these refugees? What is the total expenditure that is expected to be incurred on this matter?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The whole thing is given in the statement —the extent to which refugees have been settled.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: I wanted to know whether the Government of India have accepted all the responsibility, or whether any international aid is being sought by the Dalai Lama or the Government of India for this purpose.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The responsibility is entirely taken by the Government of India, but, as a matter of fact, the Dalai Lama has, to some extent, shared it occasionally. We have also received contributions from abroad for this purpose, rather from some Governments abroad. They are being used for specific purposes like the establishment of a school or something like that.

Shri D. C. Sharma: From the statement I find that the influx of Tibetan refugees is a continuing process. Even during this year we have received 2,880 persons. I find that arrangements have been made for them in some States of India. May I know if it has been taken into account that the places in which they are going to be settled will be able to accommodate the ever-increasing or the ever-continuing influx of refugees because this does not seem to be coming to an end in any way?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: We are exploring the possibilities of settling them in different States, and from the

statement it is obvious that the States have come forward with allotment of land etc. Since the influx is getting less and less, we think we will be able to find ways and means of settling them.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: The hon. Prime Minister stated that contributions have been received from some foreign countries. May I know the names of those countries?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Government of Australia and the Government of New Zealand. As far as I can remember, these two have given some sums of money. Switzerland has actually taken away some of the young boys and girls for training them there.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: From the statement it apepars that the influx of refugees in Jammu and Kashmir area has increased. May I know the causes for this?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot give any precise answer to that. I do not know if they are included in this figure, but a number of Ladakhi Muslims and others were held up there. They would not allow them to come because of the dispute as to whether they were nationals of India.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I am not referring to them They are only about 120 or so. In the statement I find 412 refugees came in 1959 to the State of Jammu and Kashmir, whereas in 1960 their number is 1,590. That is why I want to know whether the pressure of the Chinese on western Tibet side has increased, or it is due to some other reason that they are coming.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot give any precise reason for this. It may be because of local pressures.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : अभी तीन, चार रोज पहले अखबारों में यह खबर छपी थी कि लेह में तिब्बत के रेफ्यूजीज की बहुत बड़ी तादाद आई है ? क्या यह बात ठीक है ?

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : मुझे तो मालूम नहीं है वैसे तिब्बत से लेह आना आसान नहीं है ।

Shri Nath Pai: Has the interrogation of these refugees revealed what makes them leave their homeland whether it is the continuance of disturbed conditions in Tibet or persecution or some other reason?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Oviously they leave Tibet because they find it difficult to live there their ordinary lives because of pressures on them and circumstances, and they think they can better themselves elsewhere. Interrogation does take place, but the broad facts are fairly well known.

श्री अ० म० तारिक : मैं वजीर आजम से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या उन को इस किस्म की इत्तिलात मिली हैं कि इस मुल्क की कुछ सियासी जमातें इन रेफ्यूजीज में जा कर उन के हौसले पस्त करने की और हिन्दुस्तान और दूसरे हमसाया मुल्कों के दरमियान मुनाफरत बढ़ाने की कोशिश करती हैं, अगर यह दुरुस्त है तो इस किस्म की सियासी जमातों को इन रेफ्यूजीज में जाने से रोकने के लिये क्या तदाबीर अख्तियार की गई हैं ?

[میں وزیر اعظم سے یہ جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ کیا ان کو اس قسم کی اطلاعات ملی ہیں کہ اس ملک کی کچھ سیاسی جماعتیں ان رفیوجیز میں جا کر ان کے حوصلے پست کرنے کی اور ہندوستان اور دوسرے ہمسایہ ملکوں کے درمیان منافرت بڑھانے کی کوشش کرتی ہیں - اگر یہ درست ہے تو اس قسم کی سیاسی جماعتوں کو ان رفیوجیز میں جانے سے روکنے کے لئے کیا تدابیر اختیار کی ہیں -]

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : कोई खास इत्तिला मेरे पास इस वक्त नहीं है कि किसी जमाअत ने बड़े पैमाने पर किया हो । हां,

मुमकिन है कि शक्ती तौर पर लोगों ने किया हो । ऐसा करना नामुनासिब है और उन को रोकना चाहिये ।

Shri Muhammed Elias: What is the total amount that is spent for the rehabilitation of the Tibetan refugees till now and what is the programme of Government spending for future rehabilitation of these refugees in our country?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am sorry I cannot give the financial figures. Naturally it is a fairly large sum. It is indeterminate, if I may say so, as we take additional liabilities as more people come.

Our first object is to lay stress on children's education and their proper upbringing. I may mention that there are some foreign agencies who are helping in this work of educating them. A school or some establishment is run in Simla by some children's society in England. There is some other help given by CARE organisation. So, the first thing is children's schools, etc. The other thing is to find work for those who can work. One of the difficulties that comes in is the very large proportion of Lamas, people who are called incarnate Lamas, who normally do not work in this normal way. There are some monasteries, etc. which have been expanded for them.

When we send these people to the States, we want to send them in adequate numbers so that they can form a community among themselves, usually for agricultural purposes. The minimum number, we think, is about 500 families or 400 or something like that. In Mysore we have sent 3,000.; we may add to it and give them land. In Orissa, I think we are sending 3,000, I think....

Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi: 3,000 acres.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am not talking of acres; I am talking of human beings. In Madhya Pradesh also, we are trying to find out. We do not want to send them in small numbers. They get lost.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : श्रीमन्, क्या शासन के ध्यान में यह बात आई है कि पश्चिमी तिब्बत से जो शरणार्थी एक साल पहले भारत में, खास कर गढ़वाल और अल्मोड़ा जिले में, आ गये थे, अभी तक उन की किस्मत का फ़ैसला नहीं किया गया है और वे एक तरह से ट्रांजिट कैम्प में लटके पड़े हुए हैं ? उन की हालत अच्छी नहीं है और वहां का इन्तजाम ठीक नहीं है । क्या उन के बारे में जल्दी निर्णय किया जायेगा कि वे बस सकें और उन के लिये रोजगार की व्यवस्था की जा सके ?

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : किसी खास कैम्प की निस्बत मैं नहीं कह सकता, लेकिन यह ठीक है कि अभी अक्सर ऐसे लोग हैं, जिन का कोई खास इन्तजाम नहीं हुआ है । उन के खाने-पीने का इन्तजाम तो किया गया है, लेकिन मुस्तकिल तौर पर उन को बसाने का इन्तजाम नहीं हुआ है । कोशिश की जा रही है ।

राजा महेन्द्र प्रताप : मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि हमारे भाई इस बात से क्यों नाराज है कि हमारे यहां बाहर से लोग आते हैं । तिब्बत या पाकिस्तान या लंका से जो लोग आते हैं, वे आयें । हम उन का खैर-मकदम करेंगे । लेकिन मैं यह सवाल करना चाहता हूं कि क्या कोई इन्तजाम हो रहा है कि उन के दिमाग़ों को धो दिया जाये और अच्छे विचार उन के मस्तिष्क में भर दिये जायें, ताकि वे हमारे साथ मिल कर काम करें । क्या कोई इस प्रकार का प्रबन्ध है ?

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : यह सवाल ज़रा पेचीदा है । अभी इतने रोज़ से माननीय सदस्य कोशिश कर रहे हैं हमारे दिमाग़ को धोने की, लेकिन असर तो कभी हुआ नहीं ।

श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या प्रधान मंत्री जी ने दुनिया के और देशों से इस बारे में बातचीत की है कि तिब्बत के रेफ्यूजीज उन देशों में बसाये जा सकें ?

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : जी नहीं । जैसाकि मैं ने कहा है, कुछ लोग स्विटजरलैंड गये हैं । वे बहुत कम हैं । मुझे याद नहीं है— शायद दस, बीस, तीस, चालीस, पचास नौजवान गये हैं । उन के मां-बाप भी गये हैं । असल में उन के बच्चों को स्विटजरलैंड वाले ले गये हैं यह समझ कर कि करीब करीब पहाड़ों की आबो-हवा उन को वहां दी जा सकती है । उन के सिवाये और मुल्कों में हम ने न कोशिश की और न मैं बहुत मुनासिब समझता हूं । इक्के-दुक्के जाते हैं । शायद दो चार लड़के अमरीका पढ़ने के लिये गये हैं । उन का इन्तजाम हो गया । ज्यादा तादाद में हम भेज नहीं सकते, क्योंकि अलावा बोली के हालात में इतना फ़र्क है कि वे खप नहीं सकते ।

Shri Kalika Singh: May I know if a world refugee fund has been created by U.K. and certain other western countries and from that fund a substantial amount has been received for rehabilitating these Tibetan refugees and that has been one of the causes of the influx of poor Tibetan families?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir; we have not brought this matter up before the World refugee organisation.

Shri Tangamani *Rose*

Mr. Speaker: Nobody has been sent to Madras; why should Shri Tangamani put a question now?

Shri Tangamani: There is a proposal to that effect, Sir.

Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi: May I know whether the Dalai Lama has spent any amount from his treasures which he brought and if so what is that amount? Has he expressed his desire to settle permanently in India and if so, I want to know whether land has been allotted to him?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have not got the figures as to how much he spent but he has met some educational expenses for the monks and others. As to how much money he realised from what he brought with him, I do not remember at the moment.

Shri Yadav Narayan Jadhav: May I know whether the help received from abroad or given from internal sources is being properly utilised and distributed properly? My information is that there is dissatisfaction among the refugees.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The hon. Member's information is completely wrong.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri Hem Barua: Sir, you were pleased to say that nobody was sent to Madras and therefore, Shri Tangamani should not put a supplementary question. But so many people have been sent to Assam and so many people arrive through Assam....

Mr. Speaker: Whether people are sent to Madras or not, any hon. Member here is equally interested in all the questions that arise in this House but the time at our disposal is limited and I am, therefore, to find some excuse to keep off calling hon. Members from time to time. I will always bear in mind the names of those hon. Members who rise. I never forget any hon. Member who gets up and I try to give them one or two chances during the course of the Question Hour. That is why I am trying to adjust it this way. Next question.

Suicide by a Govt. Employee in Delhi

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*288. **Maharajkumar Vijaya Ananda:**
Shri P. G. Deb:
Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria:
Shri S. A. Mehdi:
Shri Khushwaqt Rai:

Will the **Minister of Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Assistant in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry

committed suicide in May, 1961 due to alleged discriminatory treatment in promotion; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). It is true that on the 16th May, 1961, an Assistant by name Inder Dev Prasad jumped from the third floor of Udyog Bhavan and unfortunately died. There was, however, no discriminatory treatment in the matter of his promotion in the Central Secretariat Service.

Dr. Vijaya Ananda: May I know whether any compensation is being given to his widow?

Shri Kanungo: Yes, Sir, the family, is entitled to a monthly pension of Rs. 30 per month and a gratuity of Rs. 3480. Apart from that, the Prime Minister's relief fund has given him a little amount. His colleagues in the Ministry have also provided some amount about Rs. 2500.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know whether it is a fact that this particular employee was superseded by his juniors in the matter of promotion?

Shri Kanungo: No, Sir.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether the Government have since ascertained the reasons which led him to commit suicide?

Shri Kanungo: The police enquiry revealed that the gentleman was suffering from mental depression for some time and had been attended to by doctors before his death.

Shri Nath Pai: Is it not a fact that these suicides very often are caused by a sense of frustration among the employees reinforced by the absence of any avenue through which legitimate grievances can be ventilated? This is not the first time. If that is so, may I know what is being done to provide a machinery through which legitimate grievances of the employees can be ventilated?

Shri Kanungo: There was no complaint at any time from this gentleman or any other employees there. As a matter of fact, this gentleman had appeared at a competitive examination and was successful. He was placed 20th, and he would have got a chance when vacancies occur.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: May I know whether it is a fact that when a leave vacancy occurred, his junior was promoted to that post and he was not appointed?

Shri Kanungo: No, Sir. It is not correct.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: Some months ago, when Dr. Joseph, an employee of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, committed suicide, I think the hon. Minister, Shri S. K. Patil, raised a fund and contributed some amount and gave help to his dependants. That was in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. May I know whether the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is going to do something similar in this behalf?

Shri Kanungo: I have mentioned that the employees of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry have contributed a sum of Rs. 2,000 odd for the relief of the widow.

नागालैन्ड

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*२८९. **श्री प्रकाश वीर शास्त्री :**
श्री राम कृष्ण गुप्त :
श्री विभूति मिश्र :
श्री दी० चं० शर्मा :
श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी :
श्री हेम बरुआ :

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या नागालैण्ड की कौंसिल ने विधिवत् अपना कार्य आरम्भ कर दिया है ;

(ख) नागा कौंसिल में कुल कितने सदस्य हैं और वे किस-किस वर्ग के प्रतिनिधि हैं ;

(ग) नागा कौंसिल की स्थापना के बाद क्या वहां नागाओं के उपद्रवों में कुछ कमी हुई है ; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो स्थिति को काबू में करने के लिये क्या कदम उठाये गये हैं या उठाये जायेंगे ?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) The Interim Body and the Executive Council of Nagaland have started functioning. The Interim Body was inaugurated on the 18th February, 1961. The Members of the Executive Council were sworn in on the 16th March, 1961.

(b) The Interim Body consists of 45 Members who represent all tribes in Nagaland. The Executive Council consists of 5 Councillors appointed from the Interim Body.

(c) There has been a reduction in the actual number of incidents, these having come down by 33 per cent. as compared to the period August, 1960-February, 1961. The hard core of the hostiles is, however, still intact. They have intensified their campaign to forcibly extort funds and enlist recruits from isolated villages.

(d) The security arrangements have been tightened up. Long range patrolling continues with a view to keeping the hostiles on the run. The Executive Councillors and the Interim Body Members have been touring extensively to restore confidence in the villages.

श्री प्रकाश वीर शास्त्री : क्या यह सही है कि नागा कौंसिल की स्थापना और नागालैंड के निर्माण के पश्चात् भी अभी तक नागालैंड में इस प्रकार के बहुत से उपद्रवी तत्व हैं जिन की प्रेरणा का केन्द्र फिजो जैसा व्यक्ति बना हुआ है ? मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि यदि यह सही है तो इस प्रकार के तत्वों पर अधिकार प्राप्त करने के लिये सरकार की ओर से क्या विशेष प्रयास किये जा रहे हैं ?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: It is given in the answer—what efforts are being made and so on.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know whether there are some persons involved in this matter.

श्री प्रकाश वीर शास्त्री : मैं प्रधान मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि नागालैंड के निर्माण के पश्चात् भी अभी तक समाचार-पत्रों से प्रकट होता है कि नागालैंड में इस प्रकार के उपद्रवी तत्वों की संख्या बहुत है जो फिजो जैसे व्यक्ति से अपना पथप्रदर्शन प्राप्त करते हैं, क्या यह सही है ? यदि यह सही है तो इस प्रकार के उपद्रवी तत्वों पर नियंत्रण प्राप्त करने के लिये क्या विशेष उपाय सरकार की ओर से किये जा रहे हैं ?

प्रधान मंत्री तथा वैदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री (श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू) : इस का कुछ तो इशारा इस जवाब में है जो अभी पढ़ा गया है । अब इस के दो ही तरीके हो सकते हैं, एक तो प्रचार से, समझाने बुझाने से और एक जरा ताकत से और इन दोनों को ही इस्तेमाल में लाया जा रहा है ।

श्री प्रकाश वीर शास्त्री : मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि नागा कौंसिल की स्थापना के पश्चात् भी क्या उन उपद्रवी तत्वों द्वारा कुछ ऐसी कार्रवाइयां की गई हैं जिन में कुछ व्यक्तियों को गिरफ्तार किया गया, कुछ की हत्या की गई और यदि हां तो इस प्रकार की घटनाओं की संख्या कितनी है ?

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : संख्या तो मैं यकायक नहीं बता सकता । लेकिन इस में शक नहीं है कि अकसर लोग पकड़े गये हैं और कुछ लड़ाई झगड़े में मारे भी गये हैं । इस तरह की चीजें आप अखबारों में भी पढ़ते रहते हैं । मसलन अभी एक वाक

हुआ था । नागा कौंसिल के लोग गये थे किसी खास मौके पर । हजारों आदमी वहां जमा हुए थे । वहां गाने हो रहे थे, बच्चे गा रहे थे । तीन सौ गज के फासले पर शायद दो आदमी आये और उन्होंने गोली चलाई और बेचारे दो बच्चे मारे गये । उन्होंने शायद बच्चों पर गोली नहीं चलाई, किसी और पर चलाई । लेकिन इक्के दुक्के इस तरह की घटनायें हो जाती हैं और इन को आसान नहीं है रोकना ।

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether the Government are aware of the fact that there are circulars issued by the so-called Naga federal government, particularly of the portion wherein it is said that the Chinese are at their doorstep and will help to liberate them and, if so, that was one of the reasons for the intensification of the activities of the hostiles, as the Deputy Minister has said?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I think that the posters to which the hon. Member referred are old ones. I do not think they are new ones. They mentioned all kinds of things. One of the chief things that they mentioned is that the United Nations is coming to help them. Obviously there is no truth in it. There is no possibility of anything happening. They try to keep up the flagging spirits of the people!

Shri Basumatari: May I know whether it is a fact that many of the hostile Nagas entered the Burmese border and, if it is so, what is the attitude of the Burma Government towards this?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There has been a difficulty we had to face because they cross the border on the other side. The Burmese Government have been informed and they have told us that they are taking steps.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know what steps Government have so far taken to get the release of our IAF crew who are in the custody of the Naga hostiles and who, according to Mr. Gavin Young, are now in the Burmese territory?

Mr. Speaker: How does it arise out of this question. This refers to the Nagaland, the Naga Council and so The hon. Member is going into other details.

Shri Hem Barua: It is important.

Mr. Speaker: It may be important. But how does it arise out of this question? (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Our information is that Mr. Phizo is having his own Government there and his activities are not checked. Gaving Young, the correspondent of the *Observer* is helping him. I have forwarded the original letter of Mr. Phizo and Mr. Gavin Young to the Prime Minister. Actually, Mr. Phizo wants certain guarantees.

Mr. Speaker: I do not know how all this arises out of this question.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: As a matter of fact, I think there is another question on this particular matter. I do not know whether it is today or later.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Today.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is today. If you like, I can refer to it also.

Mr. Speaker: He can answer that question also. What is the number?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: 331.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. It may be answered.

Nagas

***331. Shri Hem Barua:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Gavin Young, representative of the *Observer* who visited the Naga Hills sometime back, has written a series of articles for the London press criticising the Indian Government in relation to its policy regarding the hostile

Nagas and their demand for independence; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to give a correct appraisal of the situation obtaining in the Naga Hills *vis-a-vis* the demand for independence so far as British interest in the movement of the Naga Hills, to know about it, is concerned?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri J. N. Hazarika): (a) Yes.

(b) An article by our Deputy High Commissioner has appeared in the *Observer*, which refutes some of the misstatements made by Gavin Young in his articles. The book "Nagaland" by Dr. Verrier Elwin, which makes a balanced appraisal of the situation in Nagaland, has been distributed to our Posts abroad.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am sorry there is another question still. Anyhow, may I say that there is evidently some contact between Mr. Gavin Young, the journalist, and these people, because, as the hon. Member pointed out, Gavin Young sent a letter from one of the airmen there to the father of that airman who is in Kanpur. However, the present position is this. Some people—again, I think, through Mr. Gavin Young—approached the International Red Cross, asking them if they can arrange to be present at the time of the transfer of these airmen prisoners. The International Red Cross sent the letter to the Indian Red Cross. The Indian Red Cross refered it to us. We said "we have no objection; if your people are present there they can certainly be present there when the transfer is made." That is the present position.

Mr. Speaker: I think the hon. Prime Minister had Question No. **343** in mind.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Question No. **295** also.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: If you permit, Sir, Question No. **343** also may be answered.

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Airmen held Captive by Naga Rebels

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*343. **Shri Hem Barua:**
Shri Amjad Ali:
Pandit D. N. Tiwari:
Shri Rajendra Singh:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
Shrimati Mafida Ahmed:
Shri Raghunath Singh:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Naga rebel leader A. Z. Phizo has sent a communication to Government that the Indian airmen held captive by his followers in Nagaland would be freed soon; and

(b) if so, whether any mention has been made about the probable date of their release?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) and (b). The Government of India have received no such communication from Mr. Phizo. But in an article by Mr. Gavin Young in the London *Observer* on the 9th April, it was stated that the Naga hostiles would probably release the IAF airmen before long.

Mr. Gavin Young apparently also wrote to the British Red Cross Society for their help in arranging the release of the aircrew. This request was passed on by the British Red Cross to the International Red Cross who, in turn, addressed the Indian Red Cross. The Indian Red Cross informed us of this and enquired what they should do. They were told by the External Affairs Ministry that the Indian Red Cross representatives can be present along with the local Government officials at the time of the actual handing over of the aircrew.

Nothing further has been heard about this matter.

Shri Hem Barua: In reply to my question, the hon. Parliamentary Secretary made a reference to the article written by our Deputy High Commissioner that was published in the *Observer*, as also Dr. Verrier Elwin's book *Nagaland*. About that article, may I submit that that article is not at all enlightening in the sense that there is not one solid argument in that article. The only argument is, if the hostiles are so sure of their position, why do they not come and get themselves elected? About Dr. Verrier Elwin's book *Nagaland*, it is not very enlightening. Therefore, may I know what steps Government have taken to present our actual case for consumption in Britain in reply to Mr. Gavin Young's very serious allegations made in an article published in the *Observer*?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am not here to argue about the quality of an article. I thought our Deputy High Commissioner's letter was a good one. It did not apparently appeal to the hon. Member opposite. It was an answer to Mr. Gavin Young's article and it was a good answer. As for Dr. Verrier Elwin's book, it does not deal, of course, with the present situation; it deals with the whole Nagaland.

Shri Hem Barua: I did not find that helpful at all.

Mr. Speaker: There can be difference of opinion.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether any man from our High Commission approached Mr. Gavin Young in regard to the release of these airmen?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not quite understand why we should approach Mr. Gavin Young on this subject. Of course, he sent the letter to us and an answer is sent to him.

Newsprint Factory in Kangra District

*290. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Shri Pangarkar:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Daljit Singh:
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
Shri Naval Prabhakar:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3339 on the 14th April, 1961 and state:

(a) whether necessary foreign exchange and collaboration have since been negotiated and settled for the proposed newsprint factory in Kangra District; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). Not yet, Sir. The exact location in the Punjab will also be decided by the party in consultation with their collaborators.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know what is the estimated capacity of the proposed plant?

Shri Manubhai Shah: For the present they are thinking of 60,000 tons of newsprint per year and it will be raised very soon according to the latest report to 1,15,000 tons per year.

Shri C. D. Pande: A few years back experiments were made to manufacture newsprint out of sugarcane bagasse in Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh and that did not succeed. Now it is learnt that this process has succeeded. May I know whether Government will encourage the use of sugarcane bagasse as raw material, because that is the cheapest raw material?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is true that now this process has succeeded. We have licensed two projects for newsprint manufacture, one in Karad in Maharashtra for 60,000 tons and another in Moradabad in U.P. for 60,000

tons. There is no intention for Government to undertake this work.

Shri Damani: May I know the total capacity so far licensed and how many applications are pending for new capacity?

Shri Manubhai Shah: No licence is pending. Three have been approved, with 60,000 tons capacity each.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि अभी तक जितनी फक्ट्रियों के लिये सरकार ने लाइसेंस दे दिये हैं, क्या उन से हमारे देश की न्यूजप्रिंट की कमी पूरी हो जायेगी ? यदि नहीं, तो कितनी कमी बाकी रह जायेगी और वह कब तक पूरी हो जाने की आशा है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : फिलहाल जो हमारा अन्दाजा है उस में तो कमी पूरी हो जायेगी और हम स्वावलम्बन की तरफ पहुंच जायेंगे। लेकिन चूंकि न्यूजप्रिंट की डिमान्ड बड़ी रफ्तार से बढ़ रही है इसलिये शायद इसे और एक्सपैन्ड करना हो ।

Sardar Iqbal Singh: May I know whether there are any restrictions or the party has been asked to expedite this factory, so that it can be established as early as possible?

Shri Manubhai Shah: We are so much expediting this that the other day we had a long session with the Punjab Government and practically all their forests—coniferous, etc.—have been almost contracted for. We are having another meeting with the Himachal Pradesh Administration, so that the entire soft wood of that area goes to this Pandu project.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know what places are being considered for the location of this factory and whether the district of Gurdaspur also is one of the places?

Shri Manubhai Shah: At one time it was; but now, it is the Pandu river area. It is the confluence of two rivers.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The original proposal was that this factory in Maharashtra would import some pulp for one or two years and then switch on to bagasse. But now this factory is going to use bagasse as raw material straightaway for the manufacture of newsprint. If so, may I know why the public sector project which was thought of originally in Andhra has been dropped?

Shri Manubhai Shah: This has been discussed on the floor of the House for the last six years. The project and the new research was known only last year. It is true that there will be part utilisation of what is called chemical pulp in the first few years. 40 per cent. will be imported pulp and 60 per cent will be bagasse to begin with. But the new research carried out in Cuba and Hawai by 36 sugar mills and others have shown that perhaps 100 per cent replacement is possible. In view of the three projects we have already licensed, there is no scheme of any public sector project now under consideration.

Shri S. R. Arumugham: May I know what happened to the proposal to set up a paper factory in Nilgiris in Madras State?

Shri Manubhai Shah: In Nilgiris, it is the paper pulp project. It is going ahead with 100 tons capacity.

Land for Landless Labourers

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*291. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Shri Chuni Lal:
Shri Kodiyan:
Shri Kunhan:
Shri Bibhuti Misra:
Shri Damani:

Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state:

(a) the nature and the details of the recommendations made by the Central Advisory Committee on Agricultural Labour of the Planning Commission regarding land for landless labour;

(b) whether Government have considered them; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) to (c). The Central Advisory Committee on Agricultural Labour has recommended that efforts should be made during the Third Plan period to settle 7 lakh families of landless agricultural workers over an area of 5 million acres.

It has been indicated in the Third Plan Report that the target suggested by the Committee should be kept in view and lands suitable for settlement of agricultural labourers identified to make the proposed programme feasible.

Instructions are being issued to the State Governments both by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, which is the administrative Ministry at the Centre for settlement schemes, to the effect that programmes for settlement of agricultural labour should be strengthened with a view to carrying out the recommendations of the Central Advisory Committee on Agricultural Labour. Besides, a sum of Rs. 8 crores has been provided at the Centre from which grants and loans will be made available to the State Governments for enabling them to undertake schemes in addition to those that are already included in the respective State Plans.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: From the statement I find that 7 lakhs families will be settled. May I know the State-wise break-up?

Shri S. N. Mishra: This was the recommendation made about two months back or may be a little more than that. All these details have to be settled.

Shri Kodiyan: The statement says that instructions are being issued to the State Governments to strengthen the programme of settlement of agricultural labour. I want to know the broad nature of the instructions and whether the suggestion has been made to the State Governments to set up special machinery for the implementation of this scheme.

Shri S. N. Mishra: Appointment of a special machinery may be one of the steps. We are going to ask them to strengthen the programmes for the agricultural labour, as we attach the greatest importance to them.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि एक भूमिहीन परिवार को बसाने के लिये सरकार कितनी जमीन देगी और उस के रिहैबिलिटेशन के लिये सरकार कितना पैसा खर्च करेगी ?

श्री श्याम नंदन मिश्र : यह तो मुख्तलिफ हालात पर निर्भर है यानी किस एरिया में किस तरह की हालत है जमीन वगैरह की । यह अभी सम्भव नहीं है कि हम कोई यूनिफार्म रेट बता दें, लेकिन जैसा कार्यक्रम बताया गया है अर्थात् जिस की सिफारिश इस कमेटी के द्वारा की गई है उस से मालूम होता है कि औसत सिर्फ ७ एकड़ के करीब प्रत्येक परिवार को मिलेगी । जहां तक उद्योग धंधों और शिक्षा वगैरह की बातें हैं वे बड़ी बातें हैं और उन के बारे में तफ्सील से अभी कुछ कहना मुश्किल है ।

Shri Damani: May I know whether the land distributed through bhoodan is of very poor quality and whether Government are considering to give any assistance to improve that land?

Shri S. N. Mishra: So far as the latter part is concerned, yes, Sir; most certainly. For that we have made provisions both in the States and at the Centre. Rs. 3.6 crores have been provided for in the States and Rs. 8 crores at the Centre. It may be that the quality of the land—whether it is a bhoodan or cultivable waste land will have to be improved through a number of steps. For that, assistance will be available.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: May I know what is the land available with the Government for distributing to the landless and how much land will be made available due to the ceiling? May I also know whether it is a fact

that while distributing, these lands are given to the well-to-do people and not to the landless people?

Shri S. N. Mishra: The last suggestion is completely out of place, because it is the declared policy that the surplus land available or the land reclaimed would be given to the landless labourers mostly. So far as the total land to be made available after the imposition of the ceiling is concerned, the committee suggested that probably a million acres would be made available. Besides, there would be quite a sizeable amount of land available from the cultivable waste-land and also out of the undistributed bhoodan land.

Shri Ranga: May I know what steps are being taken by the Union Government as well as the State Governments to ensure impartial distribution of these lands and on a non-political basis so that there may be no accusations that the distribution is being carried on in a political manner for the benefit of certain sections of the people of certain groups associated with politicians?

Shri S. N. Mishra: Sir, one of the suggestions considered is that there might be an advisory committee at the State level. Then, the distribution is to be done mostly by the collectors and district magistrates who have nothing to do with politics.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि विभिन्न राज्यों में भूमि सीमा के सम्बन्ध में कानून बनने के फलस्वरूप ऐसी कितनी भूमि है जो सरप्लस हो गयी है और जो लैंडलैस लेबरर्स को दे दी गयी है ?

Mr. Speaker: One million acres, he said.

Shri S. N. Mishra: The surplus expected by the committee is one million acres.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: As a result of the legislation relating to land ceiling?

Shri S. N. Mishra: That would be as a result of the imposition of ceiling, but probably the hon. Member's question is how much land has been available by way of surplus. So far we do not have enough details on this point.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Is it a fact that up till now the advisory committees for agricultural labour and distribution of land to the landless have been, almost all of them, formed of members from the Congress Party?

Shri S. N. Mishra: The representation of members in this committee is mostly on the basis of their interest in and association with this kind of work.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Am I to take it that only the Congress Party is associated with the distribution of land to the landless?

Shri S. N. Mishra: After all, Sir, the size of the committee has to be manageable so that businesslike discussions and considerations might take place.

Shri Yadav Narayan Jadhav: From the statement I find that a sum of Rs. 8 crores has been provided by the Centre from which grants and loans should be made to the respective States. May I know whether any assessment has been made in each State of the landless labourers, and on what basis these grants and loans will be given to them?

Shri S. N. Mishra: I could not follow the question.

Mr. Speaker: Has any assessment been made of the number of landless labourers? The hon. Member said that a sum of Rs. 8 crores has been set apart. How was this figure of Rs. 8 crores arrived at? On what basis? Has there been an assessment of the number of landless labourers?

Shri S. N. Mishra: The number of landless labourers is well known, but

so far as the form in which assistance will be given to them is concerned we have decided that this should be both in the form of grants and loans. About the exact details, Sir, my submission would be that it would depend upon the local circumstances.

Shri Ranga: May I know whether the Government would be good enough to enquire whether in any of the States—my information is that they have done it—either the Chief Minister or the Revenue Minister or both of them have gone about on tour—stating their purpose to be so—for the purpose of distribution of lands belonging to Government and also lands that would be accruing to Government as a result of the ceiling? The hon. Deputy Minister just now said that this function of distribution of land would be entrusted only to the collectors and district magistrates and they were expected to do it in a non-political manner. But I want them to enquire—I do not wish to make any accusations—whether any Chief Minister or Revenue Minister has gone about on tour for the ostensible purpose, as has been announced by them, of distributing these lands?

Shri S. N. Mishra: We do not have the tour diaries of the Chief Ministers and, particularly, the purpose with which their tours are connected.

Shri Ranga: I only asked them to make an enquiry into this matter.

Mr. Speaker: No, no. After all, the collectors are under the Chief Ministers.

Shri Ranga: That does not mean that a Chief Minister is above politics, whereas a collector is expected to be above politics.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am not going to allow any argument on that. The Chief Minister cannot get out of it.

Shri Kodiyan: May I know the total number of persons who will be settled according to the schemes already included in the State Plans?

Shri S. N. Mishra: All these things will have to be settled in future; we have just embarked on this.

Atomic Plant

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*292. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Chuni Lal:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme to set up a second atomic plant in the Punjab-Delhi-Rajasthan area has been finalised;

(b) if so, the name of the place where it will be located; and

(c) when work on it will start?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) Not yet.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know whether Government have received any suggestions from the Punjab Government to set up this plant in Punjab; if so, the name of the place suggested by the Punjab Government?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Government have received suggestions from a variety of State Governments including Punjab.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : श्रीमन्, इस प्रश्न में प्रश्नकर्ता महोदय ने पंजाब, दिल्ली और राजस्थान का जिक्र किया है । पिछली बार प्रधान मंत्री जी ने बतलाया था कि उत्तर प्रदेश के पश्चिमी इलाके में भी इस तरह के संयंत्र की स्थापना के प्रश्न पर विचार किया जायेगा

क्योंकि वहां बिजली की कमी है और बड़े पैमाने पर औद्योगीकरण करना है। तो क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि उत्तर प्रदेश के क्लेम पर भी विचार किया जायेगा।

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : यह तरीका बिजली पैदा करने का अभी किसी कदर जरा गैर मामूली है, मामूली नहीं है कि जहां कमी हो वहां रख दें। जहां यह आसानी से और कामयाबी से हो सकता है वहां रखा जायेगा। काफी पेचीदा सवाल है। स्टेट गवर्नमेंट का यह लिखना कि हमें बिजली की जरूरत है इस मामले को हल नहीं करता।

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if any technical committee or any other kind of committee has been formed to settle the location and other things regarding this atomic plant; if so, what is the composition of that committee?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know, Sir. The whole of the Atomic Energy Commission is a technical committee.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : श्रीमन्, इस प्रश्न पर काफी दिनों से विचार किया जा रहा है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि अन्तिम निणय होने में अभी कितना समय लगेगा ?

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : मैं नहीं कह सकता कि कितना समय लगेगा।

European Common Market

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*293. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Shrimati Renuka Ray:
Shri Chuni Lal:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Kalika Singh:
Pandit D. N. Tiwari:
Shri Khimji:
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
Shri P. G. Deb:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Maharajkumar Vijaya Ananda:
Shri Hem Barua:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri N. R. Muniswamy:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri Muhammed Elias:
Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria:
Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:
Shri M. R. Krishna:
Shrimati Mafida Ahmed:
Shri Assar:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
Shri Amar Singh Damar:
Shri M. B. Thakore:
Shri Rajendra Singh:
Shri K. B. Malvia:
Shri Sadhan Gupta:
Shri Prabhat Kar:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1774 on the 27th April, 1961 and state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken by the United Kingdom to associate itself with the European Common Market:

(b) if so, its effect on Indian exports to the United Kingdom and other countries;

(c) whether the question of U.K. joining the European Common Market was discussed at the annual Conference of Commonwealth Economic Officials held in London from 24th May, 1961; and

(d) the views expressed thereon by the representatives of the various Commonwealth countries?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) The U.K. Government have decided to make a formal application with a view to joining the European Economic Community, and negotiations in that behalf will take place.

(b) As the exact terms of Britain's accession are still to be negotiated, its precise effects on Indian exports cannot be assessed at present.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Since the proceedings of such conferences are treated as confidential, it is not possible to disclose the views expressed by the representatives of the various Commonwealth countries.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know whether this matter was discussed with the U.K. Minister who recently visited India; if so, the result of the talks?

Shri Kanungo: Yes, Sir, and a press note was issued on 14-7-1961.

Shri Kasliwal: In the press note that was issued after the visit of the British Minister it was said that special measures would be taken to safeguard Indian export trade. May I know whether anything is being done in that direction now?

Shri Kanungo: That would be taken after the scheme of things is known; at present the terms of Britain's entry into the European Common Market are not known.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: May I know whether as a result of United Kingdom joining the European economic community our export to the United Kingdom would suffer, especially in respect of tea which enjoys two pence a pound?

Shri Kanungo: The broad facts are that a large number of commodities find import into the UK on free of Tariff basis. If UK joins the Common Market, the situation will change. We do not know yet as to what would be the quantum of difference in the long run and the short run.

Shri Achar: The Prime Minister of Great Britain stated that there will be a conference of Finance Ministers of the Commonwealth before any final decision is arrived at. May I know whether any steps have been taken in that direction and whether there will be a conference of that kind?

Shri Kanungo: We have no information on that.

Shri Tangamani: On a point of order. The Finance Minister was pleased to state yesterday in reply to one of the questions that the Common wealth Finance Ministers' Conference is scheduled to meet in September in a place in Ghana. Now the hon. Commerce Minister says that he has no information about any conference of Commonwealth Finance Ministers. We would like to know the truth.

Shri Kanungo: I am specifically referring to a conference based upon the European Common Market programme.

Shri Tangamani: Then there was a specific question as to whether this particular issue will be discussed in that conference to which the Finance Minister replied that the details of agenda and other things are not disclosed in public before the conference takes place. So, both questions are on the same subject.

Mr. Speaker: Both are correct.

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): The position is that the Commonwealth Economic Conference is held every year where the Finance Ministers are present. This time it is going to be held in Ghana. As I said, it is possible that this question of European Common Market will also be considered there. The Minister of Commerce is not likely to know about it because it is dealt with by me and not by him. It is a separate Ministry altogether. Therefore, there is no contradiction.

Shri Tangamani: What about joint or collective responsibility?

Mr. Speaker: Then why did the hon. Minister accept to answer this question? All people are agitated over the question how far our economic relations, financial position, exports, etc. will be affected by the entry of Great Britain in the European Common Market. Now, only the other day it was stated by one hon. Minister that whatever is done by a Minister is done on behalf of the Government. Therefore, whenever a question is received, I

would request all the Ministers connected with that to look into the matter and try to answer it, if possible.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): All the Government put together cannot answer this question at this stage. It is not possible, because we do not know. We know that the UK Government and other Governments are dealing with the European Common Market. On that we hold certain views which we put forward with some force. Now, what the result of their talks with the European Common Market ultimately will be, we cannot say. We know that it might affect us to some extent; to what extent, again, we do not know yet. We can only put forward whatever our case may be. The Finance Minister is making a statement on this subject tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker: I certainly agree with the Prime Minister that he or the Government may not be able to state as to what is going to take place. But the question which has a risen here is a different one. On the question of the European Common Market the hon. Finance Minister made one statement yesterday. The hon. Commerce Minister says that he does not know what the hon. Finance Minister has stated. I only say that both the Ministers must consult each other when a matter relating to both departments arises. I do not say that Government is always in a position to answer a question fully.

Shri Kanungo: I only mentioned that a specific conference to consider the European Common Market, as envisaged by the British Prime Minister, has not been convened.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Nobody asked whether this Conference was specifically convened to consider the European Common Market. The question was whether this Finance Ministers' Conference will be dealing with that question also.

Shri Morarji Desai: I am going to make a statement to the House, tomorrow or soon after, giving as much information as we know.

Shri Tyagi: Apart from that statement, I want to know whether Government have made any assessment of the total amount of concession that India has been enjoying so far in its capacity as a Commonwealth country at the hands of UK in our export trade.

Mr. Speaker: That will also form part of the statement that he is going to make.

Shri Muhammed Elias: Let me be permitted to put a question today as I will not be here tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker: He may brief another member here.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I can very well understand the anxiety of hon. Members to know all the facts. As a matter of fact, when this question was put in the British Parliament Lord Attlee was told "we do not know all the facts". There is a good deal of confusion and background talks which we do not know.

Mr. Speaker: Anyhow, let the Finance Minister make his statement tomorrow.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: I wish to add that the Finance Minister may also tell us whether it is possible to have a common market from Japan to Morocco and Asia to Africa. He may give his opinion on that also.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं एक निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि प्रश्न संख्या ३४६ बहुत आवश्यक व महत्वपूर्ण है और जिस के लिए कई सदस्यों ने आप को लिख कर भी दिया हुआ है, उसको ले लिया जाये, वह प्रश्न पंजाबी सूबे सम्बन्धी विवाद को ले कर है ।

Mr. Speaker: The discretion is completely with me. It is for me either to accept the suggestion or not to accept the suggestion.

Shri Hem Barua: May I point out that I have written to you about Question No. 339?

Mr. Speaker: Whenever I find that there are other questions more important, I am not bound to call the particular question suggested by any hon. Member. Next question.

Recommendations of Mehta Committee

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*294. **Shri Goray:**
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 15 on the 15th February, 1961 and state:

(a) what progress has been made in implementing those recommendations of the Mehta Committee which were brought to the notice of the employers and those taken note of by Government; and

(b) the results thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b). The Government is acting according to recommendations Nos. 17, 34 and 54. The Administrative Body is implementing recommendation No. 18. Recommendations Nos. 3 and 23 are directive principles to be followed by stevedores. As regards No. 30, the Board does not consider it feasible to alter booking timings.

Shri Goray: Are Government satisfied with the progress that has been made, so far as this matter is concerned?

Shri Abid Ali: Yes, Sir.

Naga Hostiles

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*295. **Shri Nath Pai:**
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shrimati Mafida Ahmed:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three persons including an assistant engineer of C.P.W.D. were killed by Naga hostiles at Tungar Basti in Sangtam area of Naga Hills on the 4th May, 1961;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these persons were also relieved of their cash they were carrying;

(c) what is the total loss to Government; and

(d) whether any compensation has been paid to the victims' relatives?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri J. N. Hazarika): (a) Yes.

Shri B. L. Bhatia, an Assistant Engineer of C.P.W.D. stationed at Longkhim in Tuensang district of Nagaland, Shri Prabhu Dayal, an automobile dealer and a driver, who were travelling in a jeep between Longkhim and Chare on Tuensang-Mokokchung road, were killed by the Naga hostiles near Tonger village.

(b) There is no information to suggest that the victims were relieved of their cash by the hostiles. The Assistant Engineer was carrying Rs. 5,000 of Government money for disbursement to the labourers. An Assam Rifles party, which traced the jeep after the incident, recovered this amount together with other sums totalling in all Rs. 10,000 from the jeep.

(c) There was no loss of cash to the Government.

(d) Shri Bhatia's widow has been paid Rs. 1,000 as immediate relief. The question of her entitlements of pension and gratuity under the Extraordinary Pension Rules is under examination.

Shri Nath Pai: In view of the fact that this kind of ambushes are not very rare in Assam, will the Government think of training the personnel in the use of such arms and also equip them with them?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): It is being done. The home guards—I do not know what it is called; may be village guards—are the local people, who are trained.

Shri Nath Pai: Perhaps he might not have got my question. I want to ask of the Prime Minister whether Government will give training to the personnel like these who were involved in this incident in the use of arms and equip them with them. I do not mean the home guards; I mean the officials, the civilians who move about from place to place since very often they have been the victims of such attacks.

12.00 hrs.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: They are supposed to have some knowledge of the use of arms. I do not know if special classes are to be opened.

Mr. Speaker: He only wants that whoever is sent there as a civilian officer or in the civil administrative service should also be trained to defend himself.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I know. But they are not pitched battles. Somebody shoots from a distance and hits a person.

Shri Tyagi: Have Government ever considered the feasibility of having a large-scale screening operation against the rebels in Nagaland?

Shri Nath Pai: Sir, it is very important. We are repeatedly hearing of cases where our personnel carrying on legitimate duties are attacked. The question is whether because of the special conditions prevailing there it is not desirable to see that they are properly trained to carry arms and use them. Thus, the attacks on them will be lessened to the extent knowledge goes to the hostiles that these people hit back quickly and are adequately armed.

Mr. Speaker: It is a suggestion for action.

Shri Nath Pai: It is very important.

Mr. Speaker: I am really surprised at this. The hon. Member asked this question once. He thought that the answer was not clear, so he asked it another time. But he must allow time for the hon. Ministers to consider whether the suggestion is practicable or not. At the moment it is not being done because the Government is satisfied that there cannot be much use in it. But then all that will be considered. Shall I ask the hon. Ministers for an assurance immediately when 500 hon. Members make some suggestion and say that the assurance must be given straightaway? I am really surprised at that.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Generally they know the use of arms and carry them. I cannot guarantee that everyone does so. In such cases normally sometimes there is a convoy which hits back immediately. But any amount of hitting back cannot stop ambushes. It is not an open fight. It is an ambush. Somebody shoots from a bush.

Mr. Speaker: Possibly, even a statement here to the effect that they will be fully armed will prevent the Naga hostiles from approaching them.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The escorting party is fully armed always.

Shri Nath Pai: Then will his Parliamentary Secretary tell the House whether this particular party of three individuals who were killed carried any arms and were they ever trained to use these arms? May we have that information?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: How can I answer that question?

Shri Nath Pai: That refutes the hon. Prime Minister's contention that arms are being carried by these people.

Mr. Speaker: He may not know all that. He wants notice.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Is it a fact that Shri Basant Lal Bhatia who had been shot dead was in that area since April, 1958 though his tenure was only for two years? I want to know the circumstances leading to the enhancement of his tenure from two to three years and whether he had applied to Government for his transfer back to Delhi.

Mr. Speaker: And therefore he was killed?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: There are so many people . . .

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid, the Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Accidents in Raniganj Coal-Fields

*296. **Shri Amjad Ali:** Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of accidents in the Raniganj coal-fields in West Bengal has been on increase;

(b) if so, what is the number of accidents in the coal-fields during 1959-60 and 1960-61; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to minimise these accidents?

The Deputy Minister of Planning and Labour and Employment (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) Although the number of serious accidents has registered an increase, the number of fatal accidents has declined during 1960 as compared to 1959 and 1958.

(b) Figures of accidents are compiled on a calendar year basis. During 1959, there were 67 fatal accidents and 860 serious accidents. The corresponding figures for 1960 are 55 and 1,010 respectively.

(c) A safety conference attended by all concerned interests, including experts engaged in research, was convened in August 1958. As a result of its recommendations six expert committees were set up in 1959 to study various technical problems. Two of them have already reported and the reports of the others will be received as soon as the technical studies are completed.

Safety legislation has been amended recently and as a result of the recommendations of Safety Conference the Government are considering further amendment.

The enforcement agency has been strengthened.

Stamping of Cloth

*297. **Shri Yadav Narayan Jadhav:**
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri P. G. Deb:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Maharajkumar Vijaya Ananda:
Shri Kalika Singh:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the non-availability of popular varieties of cloth at stamped rates;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the mills have stopped stamping of yards and rate per yard on the piece and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to meet the situation?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) By and large popular varieties of cloth are made available at stamped prices.

(b) Stamping of prices in the c yardage system has been stopped the stamping of the various particulars like dimensions etc., has to be the metric system with effect from t 1st April, 1961.

(c) Does not arise.

Report of Chinese and Indian Officials

*298. **Shri P. G. Deb:**
Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri Radha Raman:
Shri S. A. Mehdi:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Maharajkumar Vijaya Ananda:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the report of the Chinese and Indian Officials on border talks; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) and (b). Yes, Government have given careful consideration to these reports. Since these reports were received there have been discussions in Parliament also. Government cannot indicate exactly the further steps they may take in this matter. The reports have, in the opinion of Government, established the correctness of the case put forward on behalf of India. They would continue to press this on the Government of the People's Republic of China and thus endeavour to get the People's Republic of China to agree to the facts as contained in these reports. When these facts are accepted, a peaceful solution would be possible. In any event, Government will continue to be prepared for all eventualities.

Asylum to Portuguese Soldiers

*299. **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Pandit D. N. Tiwari:
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two Portuguese soldiers crossed over into India from Goa and sought asylum in this country in the last week of March, 1961; and

(b) if so, the decision taken to give them asylum in this country?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) and (b). Two Portuguese European soldiers crossed into India in civilian clothes on the 26th March, 1961 and sought asylum in India. On interrogation it was found that their statements were contradictory, thus casting doubts on the genuineness of their claim for asylum. They were accordingly pushed back into Goa on the 17th May.

Trade Agreement with Mexico

*300. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:**
Shri Radha Raman:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the possibility of trade agreement between India and Mexico has been explored;

(b) if so, the result of such efforts;

(c) whether these two countries have exchanged trade delegations; and

(d) if so, the results thereof?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). A goodwill-*cum*-trade mission from Mexico under the leadership of H.E. Senator Moreno Sanchez, Ambassador on Special Mission visited India from the 30th April to 12th May, 1961. Discussions were held with them on the development of trade between the two countries but no formal trade agreement was entered into.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. There has been no exchange of trade delegations.

Iron Ore Labour Welfare Fund

*301. **Pandit D. N. Tiwari:**
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to set up an Iron Ore Labour Welfare Fund has been finalised; and

(b) if so, the nature of organisation proposed to be set up?

The Deputy Minister of Planning and Labour and Employment (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) and (b). The proposal is being finalised in consultation with the Ministries concerned.

उत्तर प्रदेश में उर्वरक का कारखाना

*३०२. **श्री भक्त दर्शन :**
सरदार इकबाल सिंह :

क्या **वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग** मंत्री ११ अप्रैल, १९६१ के तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या १४३५ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि उत्तर प्रदेश में उर्वरक का कारखाना स्थापित करने के सम्बन्ध में इस बीच क्या प्रगति हुई है ?

वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग उपमंत्री (श्री सतीश चन्द्र) : रसायन कारखानों के जापानी निर्माताओं के एक वर्ग द्वारा भेजे गये टेकनिकल दल ने फर्टीलाइजर कारपोरेशन आफ इंडिया तथा उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य सरकार के अधिकारियों के साथ कारखाने के प्रस्तावित स्थान का नरीक्षण और परिवहन की समस्याओं का अध्ययन किया है । बस्ती और कारखाने के लिये स्थान का चुनाव अस्थायी रूप से कर लिया गया है जिसका अब सर्वेक्षण हो रहा है । संयंत्र और मशीनों तथा कच्चा माल के परिवहन तथा अन्य सुविधायों की व्यवस्था करने के लिये योजनायें बनायी जा रही हैं । मानक विवरण और खाके तथा विस्तृत अनुमान तैयार किये जा रहे हैं ।

Reorganisation of U.N. Secretariat

*303. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:**
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Radha Raman:
Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri Hem Barua:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria:
Shri Amar Singh Damar:
Shri K. B. Malvia:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any progress in respect of the proposal and demand for the reorganisation of U.N. Secretariat;

(b) whether this matter has been further pursued; and

(c) if so, with what result?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) to (c). No formal resolutions on the re-organisation of the U.N. Secretariat are pending in the United Nations, but during the last Session certain countries voiced strong criticisms of the existing structure of the Secretariat, particularly at its top level, and these criticisms have been taken into account in a report submitted by a Committee of Experts appointed in 1959 to examine and recommend measures to ensure the maximum economy and efficiency in the Secretariat. The report contains different suggestions by different members and will be debated at the next General Assembly Session. The Government of Indian are considering the report in all its implications but have not yet come to any final decisions.

Price of Woollen Yarns

*304. { **Shri Rajendra Singh:** **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:**

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to control the price of woollen yarns; and

(b) if so, what measures are being taken to control the price of various finished woollen goods?

The Minister of Commerce and (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). The prices of worsted hosiery yarns and goods have been controlled. The Tariff Commission has been requested to examine the cost structure of the different products of the Woollen Industry. The question of controlling the prices of other products will be examined on receipt of the findings of the Tariff Commission.

Wage Board for Iron and Steel Industry

*305. { **Shri Indrajit Gupta:** **Shri Kunhan:** **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:** **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:**

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wage Board for Iron and Steel Industry has been constituted;

(b) if so, its composition and terms of reference; and

(c) whether the Board will consider the question of interim relief and make recommendation thereon within a specified time-limit?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) to (c). The composition and terms of reference of the Wage Board are under consideration.

Hospital in 24-Parganas, West Bengal under Employees' State Insurance Scheme

*306. { **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** **Shri Pangarkar:**

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 14 on the 15th February, 1961 and state:

(a) the reasons for the delay in the construction of the hospital in 24-Parganas. West Bengal, under the E.S.I. Scheme; and

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that the workers are resisting the extension of the scheme due to lack of hospitalisation arrangements?

The Deputy Minister of Planning and Labour and Employment (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) It could not be taken up earlier due to delay in finalising the plans and estimates. The foundation stone has been already laid and construction is expected to start shortly.

(b) Yes.

Medical Benefits to Families of Insured Workers

*307. { **Shri Kunhan:** **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:**

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state the progress made up to the end of July, 1961 with regard to extension of medical benefits to the families of insured workers under Employees' State Insurance Corporation?

The Deputy Minister of Planning and Labour and Employment (Shri L. N. Mishra): 5.9 lakh family units have been covered upto 31st July, 1961.

Hostile Nagas in Burma

*308. **Shri P. C. Borooah:**
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
Shri Assar:
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:
Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Burmese Government had issued a communique on or about May 17, 1961, with regard to measures to deal with the hostile Nagas reported to be operating from Burmese Territory; and

(b) if so, what measures are proposed to be taken by that Government in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri J. N. Hazarika): (a) and (b). The presence of the Naga hostiles on the Burmese territory was brought to the notice of the Government of Burma. On the 16th May, 1961, the Burmese Government issued a communique stating that they were taking immediate steps to confirm this information, that they took the most serious view of any part of the Burmese territory being used as a base for carrying out operations against a friendly neighbouring country and that they would take every measure open to them to deal with bands of armed men in their territory.

It is for the Burmese Government to decide on the precise measures for dealing with this situation. They have asked their Commissioner to make necessary enquiries and have also despatched armed patrol of the Burmese Army to the border areas.

Teaching Through Television

*309. **Shrimati Maimoona Sultan:**
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Kodiyan:
Shri Naval Prabhakar:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the programme of teaching certain subjects by television in the Delhi Higher Secondary Schools has been started:

(a) if so, how many schools are covered under the programme; and

(c) what subjects are taught under the programme?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) The actual teaching is to commence in October, 1961, but certain preliminary work such as the training of teaching and preparation of curriculum has been completed.

(b) About 144 Higher Secondary schools in the Capital that have at present AC electricity are being covered in the first instance.

(c) The subjects to be taught include Physics, Chemistry, English and Hindi.

Paper and Cement Factories on Border of India

*310. **Shri H. C. Heda:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chinese Economic Delegation to Nepal has selected sites for paper and cement factories on the border of India;

(b) in view of our economic ties with Nepal, whether India was consulted in the matter;

(c) whether these sites will in any way affect our economic interests; and

(d) whether any security is involved in these moves by the Chinese?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) The Government of Nepal are reported to have been considering the establishment of a cement factory at Hithauda and a paper factory at Nepalganj with Chinese technical and financial assistance. These sites are close to the Indian border; their location however is obviously related to the proximity of raw materials and other economic considerations.

(b) to (d). No, Sir.

Slum Clearance Scheme

*311. **Shri Kodiyan:**
Shri P. G. Deb:
Shri S. A. Mehdi:
Maharajkumar Vijaya Ananda:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:

Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the slum clearance scheme for the capital city of Delhi is not progressing according to schedule;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to expedite the implementation of the scheme?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) to (c). No schedule as such has so far been prescribed for Slum Clearance Scheme in Delhi. However, in order to increase the tempo of work, various steps have been and are being taken to eliminate procedurai and other delays.

Fire in Central Sectt. Premises

312. **Shri A. M. Tariq:**
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:
Shri Hem Raj:
Shri Naval Prabhakar:
Shri N. R. Muniswamy:
Shri Assar:
Shri P. G. Deb:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Maharajkumar Vijaya Ananda:

Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) whether an enquiry has been made into the cause of the fire which broke out within the Central Secretariat premises on the 28th May, 1961;

(b) if so, the results thereof; and

(c) the extent of the damage caused due to the fire?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cause of the fire could not be established. The investigation rules out the possibility of the fire having been caused by short circuit in the electrical installations.

(c) There was no damage to the building. No files or useful articles were damaged. Only some packing cases, unserviceable items of furniture and some obsolete publicity material were burnt; the damage on this account was small.

Paper Insulator Power Cables

*313. **Shri Subodh Hansda:**
Shri Nek Ram Negi:
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to manufacture paper insulator power cables and Army field communication cables by the Hindustan Cables (P) Limited;

(b) if so, whether this has been finalised;

(c) whether the cables factory has been expanded for this purpose; and

(d) when the manufacture of these cables will start?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (d). The Hindustan Cables Limited propose to undertake the manufacture of paper insulated power cables at a rate of 480 miles per annum. Details of the scheme are being finalised.

It is not proposed to take up the manufacture of Army field communication cables at present.

Textile Mills

*314. **Shri Subbiah Ambalam:**
Shrimati Maimoona Sultan:
Shri Moraarka:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Tangamani:
Shri Birendra Bahadur Singhji:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1267 on the 3rd April, 1961 and state:

(a) whether any final decision as to the location of the five units of the Modern Textile Mills has since been taken; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Indians in U.N.O.

*315. **Shri Damani:**
Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria:
Shri K. B. Malvia:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2676 on the 3rd April, 1961 and state:

(a) whether the number of Indian nationals serving in the UNO and its allied organisations in various cadres has since increased; and

(b) whether they are with the UNO on a contract basis or otherwise?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) So far as the Government of India are aware, the number of employees in the various organisations of the U.N. remains substantially unchanged from the figures given in answer to Unstarred Question No. 2676 on the 3rd April, 1961, except that one employee of the U.N. Secretariat has since died and two were due to retire from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation. The total position remains satisfactory.

(b) The Indian personnel in these organisations fall into two categories; some are employed on fixed term contracts, while others hold permanent posts.

गोआ

*३१६. **श्री विभूति मिश्र :**
श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री :
श्री रघुनाथ सिंह :

क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या गोआ को आजाद कराने के सम्बन्ध में सरकार कोई सक्रिय कार्यवाही करने का विचार कर रही है ; और

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि गोआ के प्रश्न को लेकर भारतीय जनता में बहुत असन्तोष है ?

वैदेशिक-कार्य उपमंत्री (श्रीमती लक्ष्मी मेनन) : (क) भारत सरकार यह नहीं बता सकती कि वह निकट भविष्य में कौन से सक्रिय उपाय बरतेगी, लेकिन गोआ को आजाद कराने का सवाल उसके लिये महत्वपूर्ण और निरंतर चिंता का विषय है । हाल ही में पुर्तगाली अधिकारियों ने वहां दमनकारी कार्रवाइयां की हैं । यह भी पता चला है कि अन्य पुर्तगाली उपनिवेशों में खास तौर से, अंगोला में आजादी के लिये बड़े अंदोलन हो रहे हैं ।

(ख) भारत के लोग और गोआ के लोग भी स्वाभाविक रूप से गोआ, दमन और ड्यू में पुर्तगाली हकूमत के बने रहने पर क्षुब्ध हैं और चाहते हैं, कि ये जल्दी ही आजाद हों ।

Technical Training Institutes in Delhi

*317. **Shri Balraj Madhok:** Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of technical training institutes run by the Ministry of Labour in Delhi; and

(b) what is the total annual intake of trainees therein?

The Deputy Minister of Planning and Labour and Employment (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) Seven.

(b) 1,884 seats in engineering trades (50% of the seats are filled in after every 9 months); and 600 seats in non-engineering trades (admissions are made annually).

Shortage of Newsprint

*318 **Shri Jinachandran:**
Shri Kodiyan:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri Nek Ram Negi:
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:
Shri Achar:
Shri Assar:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
Shri Hem Barua:
Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri M. B. Thakore:
Shri Chuni Lal:
Shri N. M. Deb:
Shri P. G. Deb:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the acute shortage of newsprint and the consequent crisis facing the newspapers in the country; and

(b) what are the reasons for the shortage and what steps Government are taking for the procurement and distribution of sufficient supplies?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). A shortage in availability of newsprint was apprehended a few weeks ago, as there were some unexpected delays in the arrangements being completed for the import of supplies, chiefly from the Rupee Payment Countries. These arrangements have now been completed satisfactorily and some consignments have actually been received. Further supplies are also likely to become available in time from Canada and U.S.A. There is at the moment, therefore, no need to have any undue misgivings on this score.

Compensation to Refugees from East Pakistan

*319. **Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a substantial part of loan repayment by West Pakistan refugees is mere book adjustment of the compensation paid to them by Government;

(a) whether the matter of writing off loan repayments to East Pakistan refugees or some other form of relief is proposed by Government;

(c) whether the cases of those whose loans were paid in driblets and over long years will also be reconsidered; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) Under the Compensation Scheme, loans advanced to displaced persons from West Pakistan are to be treated as public dues and are to be deducted from the compensation before any payment is to be made. In the case of non-claimants, the loans are to be repaid in full. Unless a careful analysis of each case of a claimant displaced person is made, it is difficult to say what percentage of the loans advanced to them has been adjusted as public dues.

(b) No. Loans are to be repaid in accordance with the terms of the grant.

(c) and (d). No. If, however, any individual case of hardship is brought to the notice of the Government, the matter will be considered on merits.

Return of Pakistani Motor Launch

*320. **Shri Assar:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have returned a Pakistani Motor Launch "Glory of Dacca" to Pakistan Government;

(b) if so, on what ground it was returned;

(c) whether Government have received any penalty from the Government of Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri J. N. Hazarika): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The Pakistani motor launch "Glory of Dacca" was released on receipt of a sum of Rs. 19,320/- from the East Pakistan Government, as compensation for damages to the West Bengal motor launch "M. L. Bhagirathi", damaged during detention in Pakistan.

Small Scale Industries Board

*321. **Shri Achar:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the view expressed by a member of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Commission that the existing Small Scale Industries Board, Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Handicrafts Board and All India Handloom Board should have one unified board; and

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the question and come to any decision on the point?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) No, Sir. However, such a view has been expressed by some prominent persons.

(b) The suggestion has been examined several times and has been found unworkable and would hinder development of specialised categories of industries. Steps are being continuously taken for Coordination of the working of these Boards and Commission.

Research in Labour Relations

*322. **Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:**
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri P. G. Deb:
Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria:
Maharajkumar Vijaya Ananda:
Shri N. R. Muniswamy:

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any institute has been set up for research in labour relations; and

(b) if so, when and where?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Import of Raw Jute

*323. **Shri Tyagi:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any restriction imposed by Government on the import of raw Jute; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such restrictions in the face of hard competition the Jute Industry is facing in the foreign market?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Manufacture of Streptomycin

*324. **Shri Morarka:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to raise the production of Streptomycin from 45 to 80 tons per annum at Pimpri;

(b) if so, when would the final decision be taken; and

(c) whether any Streptomycin is imported at present?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). A proposal to step up the capacity of the Pimpri Streptomycin plant to 80 tons per annum is under examination and a final decision is expected to be taken shortly.

(c) About 80 to 100 tons of Streptomycin are imported every year.

Surgical Instruments Factory

*325. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the draft project report for the proposed Surgical Instruments Factory to be established at Adayar near Madras has been submitted to the Government of India by the Soviet experts;

(b) if so, whether Government have examined the report;

(c) when the factory is going to be established; and

(d) what will be the cost of the project and what products are going to be manufactured?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). Detailed project report on Surgical Instruments Plant has been received from the Soviet authorities recently and is, at present, under examination.

(d) The total capital investment excluding the investment on land township and working capital on the project is estimated to about Rs. 2.5 to 3 Crores. The plant will have a capacity of manufacturing 2.5 million pieces of various articles annually.

Angola

*326. **Shri Kalika Singh:**
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
Shri Muhammed Elias:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the approximate number of natives killed recently in Angola by Portuguese authorities exceeds 25,000; and

(b) what steps India has so far taken in the U.N.O. to secure independence of various Protugese colonies in Africa?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) It is difficult to give an accurate estimate of the Angolans killed recently in Angola by the Portugese authorities, but various international papers have put the Angolan casualties at a minimum of 20,000 and a maximum of one lakh.

(b) India was one of the sponsors of the letter to the President of the Security Council asking for an early meeting of the Council to consider the grave situation resulting from mass killings in Angola. The Security Council adopted a Resolution on 9th June, 1961, calling upon Portugal to desist from repressive measures in Portugal. We have extended our support and sympathy for the nationalist movements in the Portuguese colonies in Africa on many occasions in the United Nations and UN Bodies like Trusteeship Council.

Indians in South Africa

*327. **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:**
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:
Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:
Shri Hem Barua:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to sate:

(a) whether the Government of India have taken any steps to negotiate with the Government of South Africa in regard to treatment of Indian nationals in South Africa;

(b) if so, their nature; and

(c) the response, if any, from the South African Government to them?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan). (a) and (b). Yes Sir. In accordance with the resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on the 13th April, 1961, we have asked the Government of the Republic of South Africa through its Ambassador in London and its Permanent Representative in the United Nations to enter into negotiations.

(c) None. The South African Ambassador has merely acknowledged the communication.

Sindri Fertilizer Factory

*328. **Shri C. K. Bhattacharya:**
Shri Jhulan Sinha:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been steep decline in production at the Sindri Fertilizer Factory;

(b) whether the Expert Committee appointed for investigation has formulated any proposals to check the same;

(c) if so, what are they; and

(d) whether Dutch feritilizer experts have been invited to help the Expert Committee?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) to (d). The Sindri Fertilizer factory was maintaining an average production of over 3,30,000 tons of Ammonium Sulphate during the period 1956-57 to 1958-59. During 1959-60 and 1960-61 however, the factory could not maintain this level of production. The Fertilizer Corporation of India have appointed an expert Committee to go into the problem of fall in production at the Sindri Fertilizer factory. Two Dutch Experts who have extensive experience in Coal and Coke gasification processes are being associated with the deliberations of the Committee. The Committee have completed their investigations and their report is expected shortly.

Import of Machinery for Dandakaranya Project

*329. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:**
Shri P. G. Deb:
Maharajkumar Vijaya Ananda:

Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether machinery worth Rs. 10 lakhs is being imported for Dandakaranya Project; and

(b) what are the types of machineries which are going to be imported?

The Deputy Mnister of Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) Machinery worth about Rs. 2.95 crores has been ordered for the Dandakaranya Project since the inception of the Scheme.

(b) The types of the machinery imported are Mobile workshops, Wheel-type tractors, Caterpillar tractors, Track Marshal tractors, Shovels, Dumpers, Air Compressors and spare parts for tractors, etc., which are indigenously not available.

Purchase of Arms by India from U.S.A.

*330. **Shri Ragunath Singh:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state whether there is any truth in the statement of the President of Pakistan that India had bought weapons including 300 tanks and 63 non-recoil-guns from the U.S.A. at cut rates?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): No, Sir.

Jute Substitutes Manufacturing Machinery

*332. **Shri Khadilkar:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the implications of the recent news that Manila is likely to instal West German machinery for manufacturing jute substitutes from banana plant fibres; and

(b) whether Government would establish such machinery in the existing banana plantations in India?

The Ministetr of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). According to the available information, experiments are being conducted in extracting a fibre from banana with the use of machinery produced in West Germany. Details about the type of machinery and about the quality of fibre extracted are not yet available. There is no proposal at present to introduce such machinery in India.

Firing by Pakistanis

*333. **Shri N. R. Muniswamy:**
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri P. G. Deb:
Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
Shri Raghunath Singh:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that U.N. observers and Indian army personnel who were proceeding towards the cease-fire line for joint investigation in the Balkot area, were fired upon by Pakistani troops on the 9th July, 1961 while they were within 500 yards of the cease-fire line;

(b) whether any protest has been lodged with the Pakistan Government; and

(c) if so, the nature of reply received?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) On July 9, 1961, at 0900 hours eight Indian army personnel with one U.N. Observer were proceeding towards Mendhar for joint investigation when they were fired upon from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir side of the cease-fire line. There were no casualties.

(b) A cease-fire violation complaint has been lodged with the U.N. Chief Military Observer.

(c) Does not arise.

Censorship of Indian Telegrams in Pakistan

*334. **Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria:**
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri N. R. Muniswamy:
Shri P. G. Deb:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether press telegrams to India are subject to censorship in East Pakistan as alleged in the *Statesman* of 16th July, 1961; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) The Press in Pakistan is controlled; and foreign correspondents in Dacca are subject to censorship restrictions. In India there is complete freedom of he press and no such restrictions are imposed. However, Government are carefully watching the situation arising from censorship in East Pakistan.

All India Radio

*335. **Shri Tangamani:** Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce special programmes for workers and employees in the All India Radio;

(b) what is the present arrangement for the Delhi and Regional stations;

(c) whether talks have been arranged by officials and non-officials dealing with Industrial Relations; and

(d) if so, details of the same for the year 1961?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) All India Radio is already broadcasting Industrial programmes from 14 Stations, either daily or 5-6 days a week;

(b) Delhi Station does not broadcast daily or weekly Industrial programmmes, but it broadcasts, once a month, special items of interest to workers for half an hour.

(c) and (d). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 64].

Aluminium Plant

*336. **Shri Kodiyan:**
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1552 on the 14th April, 1961 and state:

(a) whether Government have since considered the proposal to set up an Alumina and Aluminium plant with Hungarian collaboration; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). The proposal is under active consideration.

Export of Iron Ore to Japan

*337. **Shri Chuni Lal:**
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Damani:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1765 on the 27th April, 1961 and state:

(a) whether the negotiations with Japan regarding sale of Iron ore during the Third Five Year Plan period have been finalised; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). As a result of negotiations between the State Trading Corporation and the Japanese Steel Mills, the Mills have agreed to purchase 6 million tons of 65/62 grade iron ore during the period 1961--63. The terms and conditions are expected to be finalised shortly. Negotiations in regard to the sale of 65/65 and 62/60 grade iron ore are still in progress.

Administrative Procedure

*338. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Shri Chuni Lal:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri A. M. Tariq:
Shri Sarju Pandey:
Shri P. G. Deb:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Maharajkumar Vijaya Ananda:
Shri K. B. Malviya:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1770 on the 27th April, 1961 and state:

(a) whether the Cabinet has since considered the suggestions of the Planning Commision on simplification of administrative procedure; and

(b) if so, with what results?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). Yes. A sum-

mary showing the salient features of the decisions taken by Government is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-3067/61].

***De-Jure* Transfer of Pondicherry**

*339. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:**
Shri Radha Raman:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:
Shri Sarju Pandey:
Shri Muhammed Elias:
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
Shri Hem Barua:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 768 on the 13th March, 1961 and state the progress made so far in the matter of *de-jure* transfer of Pondicherry to India?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): The position has not changed since the reply given to Starred Question No. 768 on the 13th of March, 1961 in Parliament. However, the Government of India take every opportunity to impress on the Government of France the importance of this question and the urgent need to take early steps for the ratification of the Treaty of Cession.

Prototype Leather Training Institute and Fruit Canning Plant

*340 **Shri Pangarkar:**
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 769 on the 13th March, 1961 and state the result of discussions held with the Yugoslav delegation in India regarding schemes for setting up a Prototype Leather Training Institute and Fruit Canning Plant?

771 (AI) LSD—3.

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): It has since been decided that the assistance the Government of India should obtain from Yugoslavia should be for the purpose of setting up a Technological Centre for Food Processing and Fruit Canning. The final details of the scheme are awaited from the Yugoslav Government.

Tea Export to Pakistan

*341. **Shri Goray:**
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 9 on the 15th February, 1961 and state:

(a) whether Government have since received any information from the Pakistan Government as to the exact quantity and varieties of Indian tea required by her; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Newsprint Factory

*342. **Shri Nath Pai:**
Pandit D. N. Tiwari:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Himachal Pradesh Administration has submitted a scheme to Government for the establishment of a newsprint factory in Poanta Valley in Sirmur district; and

(b) if so, whether Government have sanctioned the scheme?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Indian Businessmen in Tibet

*344. **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chinese Government have replied to the representation made to them about the hardships of Indian businessmen in Tibet, and

(b) if not, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) and (b). Yes Sir, but the Government of China maintain that 'certain proper measures and regulations' introduced by them to regulate trade in Tibet are within their internal jurisdiction. Equally they hold that currency reform (that is devaluation of Tibetan currency in terms of Chinese currency) is entirely a matter within the sphere of China's sovereignty and no foreign country has any right to interfere with it.

However, the Government of India have again requested the Government of China to allow the customary trade to continue in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Sino-Indian Agreement of 1954.

Survey of Cuases Leading to Strike by Central Government Employees

*345. **Shrimati Ila Palcoudhuri:**
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 931 on the 4th March, 1961 and state:

(a) whether Shri R. L. Mehta has since completed his survey regarding causes leading to the strike by Central Government employees in July, 1960;

(b) if so, the details of his findings;

(c) whether a copy of his report will be laid on the Table; and

(d) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative when the survey is likely to be completed?

The Deputy Minister of Planning and Labour and Employment (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) The report has not yet been submitted.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The study is intended to provide a complete account of the strike for departmental use. The question of placing a copy of it on the Table of the House therefore does not arise.

(d) It is not possible to say at the moment when the report would be submitted.

पंजाबी सूबा

*३४६. **श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री :**
श्री हरिश्चन्द्र माथुर :
श्री वाजपेयी :
श्री एम० के० कुमारन :
श्री अरबिन्द घोशाल :

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पिछली मई में अकाली नेता संत फतेह सिंह और उनके साथी जब उनसे मिले थे तो उन्होंने पंजाबी सूबे का प्रस्तावित मानचित्र भी दिया था ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उक्त मानचित्र में कितना भाग पंजाबी सूबे में दिखाया गया है ;

(ग) इस मुलाकात में पंजाबी सूबे के अतिरिक्त क्या कुछ अन्य महत्वपूर्ण बातों पर भी चर्चा हुई थी ;

(घ) यदि हां, तो वे क्या थीं, और उनका क्या परिणाम निकला ; और

(ङ) क्या वे संत फतेह सिंह और मास्टर तारासिंह के साथ जो पत्र-व्यवहार और बातचीत हुई उसका ब्यौरा प्रकाशित करने पर विचार कर रहे हैं ?

वैदेशिक-कार्य उपमंत्री (श्रीमती लक्ष्मी मेनन) : (क) तथा (ख) . प्रधान मंत्री जी को किसी समय कोई मानचित्र नहीं दिया गया । न ही प्रस्तावित पंजाबी सूबा के विस्तार के बारे में कोई स्पष्ट इजहार किया गया था ।

(ग) तथा (घ). अन्य किन्ही विषयों पर चर्चा नहीं हुई । हां, पंजाब सरकार के कुछ उपायों का तथा कुछ आर्थिक परिणामों का जिक्र किया गया था ।

(ङ) प्रधान मंत्री तथा संत फतेह सिंह में हुई बातचीत की संक्षिप्त रिपोर्ट प्रधान मंत्री के मुख्य निजी सचिव, जो बातचीत के दौरान उपस्थित थे, ने तैयार की थी । यह रिपोर्ट सदन पटल पर रखी जाती है **(पुस्तकालय में रखा गया देखिये संख्या एल० टी०—३०६=/६१]** । प्रधान मंत्री तथा मास्टर तारा सिंह के बीच भावनगर में हुई बातचीत का कोई अभिलेख (रेकार्ड) नहीं रखा गया था ।

सन्त फतेह सिंह और मास्टर तारा सिंह के साथ हुये पत्र-व्यवहार को प्रकाशित करने का प्रधान मंत्री जी का इरादा नहीं है

Small Scale Woolen Manufacturers in Delhi

*347. **Shri P. C. Borooah:**
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria:
Maharajkumar Vijaya Ananda:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of small scale Woolen Manufacturing units in Delhi and Punjab had either closed or had been facing prospects of closure in May-June this year, for want of worsted Woolen Yarn; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken to tackle the situation?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Implementation of Indo-Pak Agreement

*348. **Shrimati Maimoona Sultan:**
Shri Vajpayee:
Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:

Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Rehabilitation Ministers of India and Pakistan was held in May-June 1961 for discussing and devising measures for speedy implementation of the movable property agreement between the two countries; and

(b) if so, with what result?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) Yes. A meeting was held at Calcutta on the 5th and 6th July, 1961.

(b) At the meeting of the Ministers of Rehabilitation, India and Pakistan, held at Calcutta on the 5th and 6th July, 1961, it was agreed that:

(i) Pakistan Government will issue a notification exempting all displaced Indian banks from the operation of their Evacuee Property Laws and declaring them as non-evacuee concerns;

(ii) after the Pakistan Government had issued a notification exempting the displaced Indian Banks from the operation of Evvacuee Property Law in Pakistan and declaring them as non-evauee concerns, the transfer of bank accounts will take place;

(iii) the transfer of lockers and safe deposits will take place simultaneously with the transfer of banks accounts;

(iv) every effort will be made by India to supply information required by Pakistan in regard to revenue records of evacuee agricultural lands; and

(v) a meeting of the Joint Committee consisting of the representatives of the two countries for preservation and maintenance of the religious shrines of the minority community in either country would be held either in September or October, 1961.

उत्तर प्रदेश में रेशम उद्योग

*३४६. **श्री भक्त दर्शन** : क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री २८ फरवरी, १९६१ के अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या ६६८ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि रेशम बोर्ड ने उत्तर प्रदेश के निचले पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में रेशम उद्योग का विकास करने के लिये क्या कार्यक्रम बनाया है और उसे कार्यान्वित करने के लिये क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ?

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री मनुभाई शाह) : एक विवरण सभा की मेज पर रखा जाता है [देखिये परिशिष्ट १, अनुबंध संख्या ६५]

Block Closure of Jute Mills

*350. **Shri Indrajit Gupta:**
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:
Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:
Shri B. Das Gupta:
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Muhammed Elias:
Shri Hem Barua:
Shri Anirudh Sinha:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Jute Mills Association's proposal for block closure of all their mills in June and July was approved by Government;

(b) if so, on what consideration such approval was given; and

(c) to what extent the block closure has achieved its declared objects?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir; both by the Central and the West Bengal Governments.

(b) The closure was approved in view of a critical shortage of raw jute.

(c) It has resulted in the conservation of a certain amount of raw material.

State Trading Corporation

*351. **Shri Damani:**
Shri Mahanty:
Shri Morarka:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-report about the publication of a study on State Trading Corporation by Economist Intelligence Unit, London and published by the Council for Economic Education, Bombay; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has also received copies of the Report of the Economist Intelligence Unit.

(b) The report recognises the usefulness of some of State Trading Corporation's activities, but it has criticised its working in several respects. Government will give this criticism its careful consideration though it is clear that at least some of the criticism fails to make pro-

per allowance for circumstances prevailing at relevant periods of time.

Raid by Pakistanis

*352. **Shri Assar:**
Shri Achar:
Shrimati Renuka Ray:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 300 Pakistanis raided Dubabad rehabilitation camp, 13 miles from Silchar on the 30th May, 1961;

(b) whether it is a fact that they damaged houses and fled with ornaments and cash amounts;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any persons were arrested?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri J. N. Hazarika): (a) to (d). Government have no information. The Assam Government have been requested to furnish details which are awaited. A statement, giving facts, will be laid on the table of the House as soon as the required information is available.

Requirement of Sulphur

*353. **Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the total requirement of sulphur in India;

(b) whether the whole quantity is produced in the country; and

(c) if not, to what extent?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Approximately 2 lakh tons.

(b) and (c): The entire requirements are met by imports.

Death of two Dock Workers in Calcutta Port

*354. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two workers were killed on the 8th May, 1961 at the Calcutta Port while loading goods into the ship;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any investigation regarding it; and

(c) if so, the result of the investigation?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The accident is reported to have been caused by bad slinging. The responsibility for the accident, which is not covered by the Indian Dock Labours' Act 1934, is being fixed by the Port Commissioners.

Government Statistical Departments

*355. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:**
Shri P. G. Deb:
Maharajkumar Vijaya Ananda:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to strengthen the statistical departments of Government; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken in this matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) A new Department, namely, the Department of Statistics has been created in the Cabinet Secretariat and entrusted with the responsibility for bringing about coordination between various statistical agencies and

for taking the initiative in setting up agreed standards and norms and in promoting the collection and compilation of statistics on scientific lines. The Department will work in close collaboration with Central Ministries and State Governments and will be assisted by an Advisory Committee consisting of statistical experts from the Government of India as well as from the State Governments. This Committee will ordinarily meet once a year; but it may set up a Standing Committee to deal with matters of coordination which will arise during the meetings of the main body. In addition, there will be *ad hoc* technical groups for dealing with specific problems. Other steps which are being taken to strengthen the statistical work done by various government agencies are the setting up of a Statistical Service with provision for deputation of experts to and from State Governments and universities and other organisations concerned with statistics, and the starting of advanced training courses in various branches of statistics.

Appeal of P. M. to Services

*356. **Shri P. G. Deb:**
Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether he issued an appeal to the services to promote national unity recently; and

(b) if so, the urgency of the same?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). Early last month I issued an appeal to all our officers and others, who serve the Government of India in various capacities, to remember always the high importance of the unity of India and the national and emotional integration of all our people, to whatever religion, caste, province or linguistic group they might belong. As I have pointed out in that appeal, we have now arrived at a critical phase in our national existence. We have just embarked on our Third Five Year Plan which will, we hope, take us out of the rut of poverty that has brought so much unhappiness and degradation to our millions. The implementation of the Plan depends, to a very great extent, upon the efforts of the vast governmental administrative machinery. It is essential that now, more than ever before, all government servants should work wholeheartedly for the success of the planned programmes of the country and for the country's unity and strength. I wanted that all government servants should understand this very clearly. So I have issued that appeal to them.

Trade in Cotton Textiles

*357. **Shri Hem Barua:**
Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Maharajkumar Vijaya Ananda:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that President Kennedy of the U. S. A. has suggested to India that she with her other textile producing and textile-exporting countries should start early negotiations for a "global understanding" in the matter of international trade in cotton textiles;

(b) if so, whether Government have reacted to this suggestion favourably; and

(c) if so, what steps they have taken in this direction?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) India participated in the GATT Textile Conference in July, 1961.

Drug Plants

*58. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri P. G. Deb:
Maharajkumar Vijaya Ananda:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri Kunhan:
Shri S. A. Mehdi:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri Nek Ram Negi:
Shri Narayanankutty Menon:
Shri Punnoose:
Shri M. K. Kumaran:
Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri Anirudh Sinha:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1519 on the 14th April, 1961 and state:

(a) whether Government have since received detailed project reports on Drug plants from Soviet experts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). Detailed project reports on Drug plants have been received from the Soviet authorities recently and are, at present, under examination.

Tractors for Reclamation Operations in Dandakaranya

*359. **Shri Chuni Lal:**
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:

Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1773 on the 27th April, 1961 and state:

(a) whether Government have since considered the findings of the expert asked to conduct an inquiry into the causes of breakdown and unsatisfactory performance of a number of D-80 and D-12 tractors supplied by the Defence Ministry for reclamation operations in Dandakaranya;

(b) if so, the result thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) The report is still under the consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Pending decision of the Government on the report; the Dandakaranya Development Authority and the Director General of Ordnance Factories have been asked to implement the operative parts of the recommendations made in the Report in respect of maintenance and servicing of the machines and improvements, additions and alterations to the machinery.

Promotion of Exports

*360. **Shri Pangarkar:**
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 775 on the 13th March, 1961 and state:

(a) whether Government have examined the question of reducing the number of organisations dealing with the promotion of exports; and

(b) if so, with what result?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) and (b). The matter is still under examination.

Asbestos Factory in Andhra Pradesh

*361. **Shri Goray:**
Shri Pangarkar:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 20 on the 15th February, 1961 and state:

(a) whether a final decision has since been taken by Government for setting up a factory to process asbestos deposits in Cuddapah District in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The availability of asbestos and the adoptability of machanised mining methods are still under investigation and do not yet seem adequate for the establishment of a factory.

Employment of Government Personnel in Public Undertakings

*362. **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Chuni Lal:
Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the report of Prof. J. K. Galbraith recommending that no Government employee while in Government service should be appointed Director on a Government Corporation; and

(b) if so, whether the above suggestion has been accepted by Government?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). As the House is aware, Government are considering comprehensive proposals in regard to the administration of Government Corporations and Companies and the suggestion of Prof. Galbraith about Government employees will be examined in that connection.

Export of Iron Ore to Japan

*363. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:**
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Pangarkar:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 145 on the 20th February, 1961 and state:

(a) whether the negotiations held between the State Trading Corporation of India and the representatives of the Japanese Steel Industry in regard to export of Iron ore from India to Japan during 1961; and the payment of a higher price by Japan as compared to that paid by her in 1959-60 have been concluded; and

(b) if so, details of the results achieved?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). As a result of negotiations between the State Trading Corporation and the Japanese Steel Mills, the Mills have agreed to purchase 6 million tons of 65|62 grade iron ore during the period 1961—63. The terms and conditions are expected to be finalised shortly. Negotiations in regard to the sale of 65|65 and 62|60 grade iron ore are still in progress.

Cottage Industries in Madhya Pradesh

*364. **Shrimati Maimoona Sultan:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to Government's notice that Cottage Industries in Madhya Pradesh have begun producing fabulous sarees which can pass through a ring;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to give any aid to develop this industry on a country-wide scale; and

(c) if so, in what form and to what extent?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Output of rubber

*365. **Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the output of rubber has declined in 1960-61; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri N. Kanungo): (a) No, Sir. There has been an increase of 1,523 Metric tons of rubber during 1960-61 as compared to 1959-60.

(b) Does not arise.

Indian Nationals in Laos

*366. **Shri P. G. Deb:**
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a situation has arisen in the Xieng Khouang area in Laos held by Leftists which necessitates evacuation of Indian nationals there;

(b) if so, full details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to evacuate Indian nationals; and

(d) the number of Indian nationals evacuated and those still in the area under reference?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) to (d). Reports were received that about 15 Indain nationals in Xieng Khouang had been cut off from all contract, early this year. Most of them were cloth merchants and were without any business due to the lack of facilities for importing merchandise. In April, 1961, a message was received by our Embassy in Laos through the French Military Mission that the Indian nationals desired evacuation at their own expense. All the 15 Indian nationals were safely evacuated in a chartered plane having a French pilot, after our Ambassador in Laos had personally discussed the matter with the authorities concerned.

Ball Bearing Industry

*367. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 685 on the 8th March, 1961 and state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to secure collaboration of some country other than Russia for developing and modernising the ball bearing industry in the country; and

(b) if so, what and with what result?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) There is at present no new scheme for the manufacture of Ball and Roller bearings in the public sector.

(b) Does not arise.

Nepalese Trade Delegation

*368. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:**
Shri Radha Raman:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Pandit D. N. Tiwari:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri Assar:
Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria:
Maharajkumar Vijaya Ananda:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Nepalese Trade Delegation visited India in May, this year seeking certain amendments to the Indo-Nepalese Trade Treaty signed in October, 1960;

(b) if so, what were the modifications sought; and

(c) what was the result of the discussions?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The modifications sought were in respect of the procedure outlined in the Memorandum, attached to the Indo-Nepalese Treaty, for the transit of goods from and to Nepal through the Indian Territory.

(c) As a result of these discussions, we have agreed to certain relaxations being made in the rules governing the transit of goods and as a result of these relaxations it is expected that the difficulties of the Nepalese importers would be substantially removed.

Exports of Handicrafts

*369. **Shri Hem Barua:**
Shri Aurobindo Ghosai:
Shri P. G. Deb:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Maharajkumar Vijaya Ananda:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been complaints by foreign buyers of Indian handicrafts that very often than not the quality of handicrafts exported to those countries is poor;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to ensure quality products for exports;

(c) whether there is any proposal to have statutory inspection of handicrafts exported to foreign countries; and

(d) if so, when it is likely to be put into operation?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) There have been some complaints from foreign buyers about export of substandard handicrafts, defective packing, etc.

(b) Various steps are being taken to infuse confidence in the foreign importers and to induce Indian exporters to export quality goods, such as, (a) registration of exporters (b) introduction of quality control schemes (c) training in packing (d) provision of facilities, such as setting up of a wood-seasoning kilns and (e) pre-shipment inspection on a voluntary basis.

(c) and (d). An *Ad Hoc* Committee on Quality Control and Pre-shipment Inspection, set up by Government, has recommended compulsory inspection of certain items of handicrafts meant for export. The report of the said Committee is being examined.

संत सिंह तेग की प्रधान मंत्री से भेंट

*३७०. **श्री प्रकाश वीर शास्त्री** : क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि जम्मू और काश्मीर अकाली दल के प्रधान श्री सन्त सिंह तेग कुछ समय पहले प्रधान मंत्री से मिले थे और उन्होंने पाकिस्तान में अपने वक्तव्य के बारे में कुछ स्पष्टीकरण किया था;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उस स्पष्टीकरण का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि श्री सन्त सिंह तेग जम्मू और काश्मीर राज्य के हितों के विपरीत कार्य करने के लिए नजरबन्द कर दिए गए थे ?

प्रधानमंत्री तथा वैदेशिक कार्य मंत्री के सभा सचिव (श्री सादत अली खां): (क) और (ख). यह सच है कि श्री संत सिंह तेग प्रधान मंत्री से उनके निवास स्थान पर थोड़ी देर के लिए मिले थे। उन्होंने कहा कि उनके बारे में अखबारों में जो रिपोर्ट छपी थीं, वे ठीक नहीं थीं।

(ग) पता चला है कि जम्मू और काश्मीर की सरकार ने श्री संत सिंह तेग को कुछ समय के लिए नजरबंद किया था।

Export of Chemicals to Middle East Africa

564. { **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** / **Shri Pangarkar:**

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1806 on 16th March, 1961 and state:

(a) whether Government have since examined the report received from the delegation sent to Middle East Africa to step up the export of chemicals to that region; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The delegation has made a merket study of the chemicals required in each of the countries visited and of the possibilities of their being supplied from India. It is for the manufacturers and exporters of chemicals and pharmaceuticals to utilize the information so collected to their best advantage.

Small Scale Industries Around the Rourkela Steel Project

565. { **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** / **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:**

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1807 on the 16th March, 1961 and state:

(a) whether the report regarding the setting up of small scale industries around the Rourkela Steel Project area has been revised and finalised; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). A statement is attached. [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 66).

Industrial Survey of Delhi

566. { **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** / **Shri Naval Prabhakar:**

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1810 on the 16th March, 1961 and state:

(a) the further progress made in completing the industrial survey in Delhi;

(b) whether it has been completed; and

(c) if so, the main findings thereof?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). The Delhi Administration finished the industrial survey of Delhi towards the end of February, 1961. In all, 4983 industrial units were surveyed and the data thus collected is under compilation.

(c) Does not arise.

Enquiry Report of Calcutta Tramways Strike

567. { **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** / **Sardar Iqbal Singh:**

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1686 on the 24th April, 1961 and state:

(a) whether Government have considered the question of publication of Survey Report of Calcutta Tramways strike; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b). The

Central Implementation and Evaluation Committee which considered the report at its last meeting in March, 1961 adopted the Report but left the question of its publication for further consideration.

Trade Centre in New York

568. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri A. M. Tariq:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3745 on the 24th April, 1961 and state at what stage is the proposal to open a Trade Centre in New York?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): The proposal is still under consideration.

Exploitation of Sambhar Lake Resources

569. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri A. M. Tariq:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3746 on the 24th April, 1961 and state:

(a) whether the arbitrator has given award regarding the dispute on the amount of compensation to be paid by the Central Government to the Government of Rajasthan for exploitation of the Sambhar Lake resources; and

(b) if so, the nature of the award given?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A copy of the award is attached. [*Placed in Library, See* No. LT-3070/61].

Survey of the Carpet Industry

570. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3749 on the 24th April, 1961 and state:

(a) whether the survey of the Carpet Industry in the country has been completed; and

(b) if so, the details of the Survey Report?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) The survey has not yet been completed.

(b) Does not arise.

Paper Mills in Jammu and Kashmir

571. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3748 on the 24th April, 1961 and state:

(a) whether Government have since considered the report of the F.A.O. Expert on paper mills in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the nature of the decision taken?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). The Report in question has since been considered but the data furnished by the Expert is not adequate and requires further examination.

Further a team of Russian experts would be visiting the country shortly to survey the forest resources of Jammu and Kashmir and examined the possibility of setting up a paper and pulp plant there. A final view would be taken after their visit and recommendations.

Quarters for Clerks

572. **Shri Khushwaqt Rai:** Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Government Employees drawing below Rs. 500 per month in Delhi;

(b) the number of employees out of these as have been provided with residential quarters;

(c) the number of employees who want residential quarters; and

(d) whether Government have any scheme on implementation of which all Clerks desirous of getting a quarter would be provided with one?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) There are 64,695 Central Government employees in Delhi who are drawing below Rs. 500 per mensem and have applied for general pool accommodation.

(b) 25,620.

(c) 39,075 of them are still without Government accommodation.

(d) It would not be possible to provide Government accommodation to all the employees. Efforts are, however, being made to construct as many additional quarters as is possible within the resources allocated for the purpose. No accommodation is specifically built for clerks.

Small Scale Industries in Maharashtra

573. **Shri Pangarkar**: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state the amount of industrial loans proposed to be given to Maharashtra State during the Third Five Year Plan period under Small Scale Industries programme?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): In the Third Five Year Plan, a provision of Rs. 388.00 lakhs has been made for the development of small scale industries in Maharashtra. Of this amount, a provision of Rs. I crore has been made for financial assistance to Small Scale Industries under their State Aid to Industries Act|Rules. It is not possible to indicate the amount of loan assistance to be given by the centre to the Maharashtra State during the Third Plan period as the quantum of such loan assistance to States will depend on the allocations made from year to year on various considerations such as the resources position at the Centre, past performance of the State, etc.

Small Industrial Units in Bihar

574. **Shri Pangarkar**: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Small Industrial units established during 1960-61 for the displaced persons in Bihar; and

(b) the details thereof?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) None please.

(b) Does not arise.

Passports to Indians for China

575. **Shri Pangarkar**: Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state the number of Indians who have been issued passport to visit China during the last three months?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): 172 Indians were issued with passports valid for travel to China during the three months March, April and May, 1961. 97 of them were Official and Diplomatic passports.

NEPA Mills

576. **Shri Vidya Charan Shukla**: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) how many selection committees, including standing and special ad-hoc committees were set up for recruitment purposes at the National Newsprint and Paper Mills Ltd. Nepanagar since its control and management has been taken over by the Central Government; and

(b) in how many of such committees, the representatives of the State Government were duly included?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) One Selection Committee for the recruitment of middle level posts and three *ad-hoc* committees for selection of lower level personnel were set up after the control and management of Nepa Mills was taken over by the Central Government. No permanent selection committee has been set up.

(b) Appointment to higher posts are made by the Board of Directors where the State Government is represented. The management of the Nepa Mills has been advised to associate wherever possible the representatives of the State Government on the appropriate committees for the recruitment|selection of middle level and lower grade posts also.

Guarantee Scheme for Small Scale Industries

577. Shri Morarka: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to bring more districts under the guarantee scheme for credit for small scale units; and

(b) whether any steps are proposed to be taken to liberalise the credit facilities and popularise this scheme?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 67].

Mysore and Andhra Pradesh during Second Plan

578. { Shri Agadi: / Shri Sugandhi:

Will he Minister of **Planning** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3775 on the 24th April, 1961 and state:

(a) the figures of actual amounts utilised, lapsed and carried over in the Second Five Year Plan period for Mysore and Andhra Pradesh under various heads; and

(b) if the reply to above be in nagative, when are the figuree likely to be available?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) and (b) The figures of actual expenditure for the last year of the Second Five Plan i.e. 1960-61 will be available sometime in October, 1961.

Enquiry Offices at Ferozeshah Road

579. Shri A. K. Gopalan: Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to staate:

(a) the number of person: incharge of and working in the Enquiry Offices of C.P.W.D. at Ferozeshah Road, North Avenue and South Avenue, New Delhi; and

(b) their categories and grades?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table. [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 68.]

Manufacture of Watch|Clock Parts

580. Shri Kistaiya: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to manufacture the following indigenous material relating to Watches|Clocks during the Third Five Year Plan period in the private sector.

(i) Watch Cases

(ii) Dials

(iii) Buttons

(iv) Hands

(v) Loops, etc.

(b) what are the countries from where the above mentioned material are imported at present; and

(c) the number of applications pending with Government for issue of licences for manufacture of these articles and the causes thereof?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) All schemes approved by Government so far for the manufacture of watches, clocks cover the manufacture of all the components indigenously.

(b) Mainly from Switzerland, West Germany, U.K., France, Hongkong and Japan.

(c) Nil.

Capsule Cover Manufacturing Units

581. Shri Kistaiya: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) how many capsule cover manufacturing units are functioning in this country, Statewise;

(b) the total financial aid given by the Centre as well as by the State Governments;

(c) the number of foreign firms working in collaboration with the leading Indian firms and their total investments;

(d) whether production of these firms will be sufficient to meet country's requirements; and

(e) the total savings of foreign exchange?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Two firms are functioning in Bombay in Maharashtra State. One firm produces two piece hard gelatine capsules and the other single piece soft gelain capsules.

(b) Information is not available and will be collected if desired.

(c) None of the firms have at present any collaboration with foreign firms.

(d) The firm producing two piece hard gelatine capsules has been licensed for expansion in its capacity to 240 million capsules per annum. In addition two more units have been licensed for a capacity of 250 million capsules per annum. The country's requirements would be met if all these firms establish full licensed capacity. The capacity for single piece soft capsules is also adequate at present.

(e) Only two piece hard gelatine capsules are imported. The value of these imports is estimated to be of the order of Rs. 20 to Rs. 25 lakhs per annum. The savings can be roughly estimated to be Rs. 10 lakhs taking into account the imported raw materials required.

Conversion of Electricity

582. Shri Kistaiya: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for manufacture of converters for converting electricity from A.C. to D.C. and *vice versa* for use of fans, radios and other similar mechanical equipments;

(b) if so, how many such schemes have been considered with the names of he firms and for how much amount;

(c) the number of the pending cases; and

(d) the reasons for the delay in finalising them?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) There is no scheme for the manufacture of rotary converters for converting D.C. to A.C. supply and *vice versa* for small appliances like fans, radios etc. Rectifier equipments for converting A. C. to D. C. supply are, however, being manufactured by a number of firms for such applications as battery charging, electroplating etc., Small vibrators for converting D.C. to A.C. Supply for use

with radios, amplifiers and other similar equipments are also being manufactured at present by one firm.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 69].

(c) No cases are pending at present.

(d) Does not arise.

Polystyrene Plastic

583. **Shri Kistaiya:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to start the Polystrene Plastic and Acrylic plastic Industries in public sector during the Third Five Year Plan;

(b) what are the countries from which these are imported with their amount for the year 1959-60; and

(c) the various beneficial uses of these plastic sheets for the benefit of the country?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Import Statistics of Polystyrene and Acrylic Plastic are not available as these items are not separately recorded in the Indian Trade Classification. However, import licences of the value of Rs. 4,314,000 and Rs. 42,000 for 'Polystyrene Plastic' and 'Acrylic Plastic' respectively were issued during the financial year 1959-60.

(c) Polystyrene sheets made from high impact polystyrene are utilised for vacuum forming, various industrial items like refrigerator door lining, Battery cases, air conditioner grill and certain radio parts. Acrylic sheets are generally used for motor car and motor cycle sheets, aeroplane domes, transluscent light fittings and advertisement media. They are also used as tail lamps in automobiles and some times in railway vehicles also. In the form of corrugated sheets, they are utilised in roof lighting, particularly in industrial establishments.

Import of Watches

584. **Shri Kistaiya:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to staate:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russian watches are likely to be imported in India in near future through State Trading Corporation;

(b) if so. for how much amount; and the mode of distribution in the country; and

(c) whether these watches will be sold at controlled and cheap rates in the market?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Cinema Arc Carbons

585. **Shri Kistaiya:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether cinema are carbons are manufactured in the country to cope with the increasing demand;

(b) the names of the firms working with their total investment; and

(c) the saving of foreign exchange?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). Only one firm, the Industrial National Carbon Company Ltd., Delhi are now engaged in the manufacture of cinema are carbons by processing of imported carbon cores with the assistance of the National Physical Laboratory. The firm have reached a production capacity of one lakh pairs cinema carbons in the month of April, 1961, as against a licensed capacity of 1.2 million nos. per annum. The issued capital of the firm is stated to be Rs. 10 lakhs. There is a saving of approximately Rs. 5 lakhs of foreign exchange.

Tranformers

586. Shri Kistaiya: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to encourage meanufacturing of I.F. Transformers of 456 Kcs. in the public sector in order to meet the demand of the country;

(b) how many firms are already manufacturing in the country with their names; and

(c) the number of cases pending for issue of licences and the causes thereof?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table. [*See* appendix I, annexure No. 70].

Cement for Orissa

587. Shri B. C. Mullick: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3563 on the 19th April, 1961 and state:

(a) whether any further quota of cement has been allotted to Orissa on account of meeting the requirements of the flood affected people of the State after March, 1961;

(b) if so, the quantity of cement allotted;

(c) whether the State Government has given any indication about the requirements of cement in the flood affected areas in the current financial year; and

(b) if so, what is the requirement indicated?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Slum Clearance in Punjab

588. { Shri D. C. Sharma: / Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of money allotted to Punjab under the slum clearance scheme during the entire Second Five Year Plan period year-wise;

(b) the names of projects which were sanctioned under this scheme for Punjab; and

(c) the amount of money utilised by the Punjab Government so far for this purpose?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) to (c). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table. [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 71].

Woollen Industry in Jammu and Kashmir

589. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme under consideration of Government for giving encouragement to the Woollen Industry in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) the nature of steps taken in this direction during the last two years?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Biri Industry

590. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) whether an inquiry has of late been conducted into the conditions of Labour employed in the biri industry;

(b) if so, what are its findings; and

(c) what ways and means have been suggested to improve their lot?

The Deputy Minister of Planning and Labour and Employment (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) to (c). No inquiry into the conditions of labour employed in the biri industry has been conducted in recent years.

कैम्पों में पश्चिम बंगाल के शरणार्थी

५९३. **श्री क० भे० मालवीय** : क्या **पुनर्वास तथा अल्पसंख्यक कार्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) पश्चिम बंगाल में उन शरणार्थियों की संख्या कितनी हैं जो अब तक कैम्पों में हैं।

(ख) उन्हें अकर्म वेतन देने पर प्रतिदिन कुल कितना रुपया खर्च किया जाता है; और

(ग) यह रुपया कब से खर्च किया जा रहा है?

पुनर्वास उपमंत्री (श्री पू० शे० नास्कर): (क) १५-७-६१ को ३०,६०० शरणार्थी।

(ख) अन्दाजन खर्चा प्रत्येक शरणार्थी का २५ रुपये प्रति मास आता है।

(ग) हालांकि बाजार के उतार-चढ़ाव के कारण राशि परिवर्तित होती रही होगी किन्तु पोषण अनुदान उस तिथि से ही दिया जाता है जिस तिथि से शरणार्थी कैम्प में प्रवेश करता है। विभाजन के उपरान्त कैम्प खोले गए थे जबकि पूर्वी पकिस्तान से शरणार्थी आने शुरू हुए थे। १९५८ के आरंभ तक यह कार्यवाही चलती रही।

बाल बेयरिंग

५९४. **श्री क० भे० मालवीय** : क्या **वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या इस वर्ष रूस से बाल बेयरिंग्स वास्तविक उपभोक्ताओं के लिये आयात किये जा सकते हैं?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री कानूनगो) : जी, हां।

सरकारी उद्योग

५९५. **श्री क० भे० मालवीय** : क्या **वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि १ जुलाई, १९६१ को सरकारी उद्योगों में (उद्योगवार) कुल कितनी पूंजी लगी हुई थी?

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री मनुभाई शाह) : वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्रालय के प्रशासकीय प्रभार के अधीन सरकारी क्षेत्र के उद्योगों के बारे में जानकारी इकट्ठी की जा रही है जो यथा शीघ्र सभा की मेज पर रख दी जायेगी।

विदेशों में भारतीय मिशनों के कर्मचारियों को हिन्दी सिखाना

५९६. **श्री क० भे० मालवीय** : क्या **वैदेशिक-कार्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने विदेशों में स्थित भारतीय मिशनों में काम करने वाले कर्मचारियों को हिन्दी सिखाने की कोई योजना बनाई गई है।

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसकी रूपरेखा क्या है;

(ग) यदि उपरोक्त भाग (क) का उत्तर नकारात्मक हो, तो क्या ऐसी कोई योजना बनाई जायेगी; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो कब तक?

प्रधान मंत्री तथा वैदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री (श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू): (क) से (घ).

विदेश-स्थित भारतीय मिशनों और केन्द्रों को इसका प्रोत्साहन दिया जाता है और यथासंभव सुविधाएं भी दी जाती हैं कि वे अपने कर्मचारियों को हिन्दी पढ़ाने का प्रबंध करें। निश्चय ही, यह इस बात पर निर्भर करता है कि किसी विशेष केन्द्र पर, हिन्दी जानने वाले योग्य कर्मचारी हैं या नहीं। फिलहाल हिन्दी पढ़ाने का प्रबंध कोलंबो, कैंडी, दमिश्क, जेद्दा, काबुल, कंधार रंगून, तेहरान और वाशिंगटन स्थित भारतीय मिशनों में है। अमले के जो सदस्य हिन्दी की कक्षाओं को पढ़ाते हैं, उन्हें उसका पारिश्रमिक भी दिया जाता है।

Disposal of Work in Settlement Offices

597. Shri Chuni Lal: Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) what steps, if any, have been taken by Government to ensure quick disposal of work in the offices of the settlement Officers and Managing Officers; and

(b) whether any time limit has been fixed for the disposal of applications and cases?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) The progress of disposal is carefully watched and steps are taken to eliminate bottlenecks, if any, in the procedure. Procedural changes and amendment of Displaced Persons (Compensation & Rehabilitation) Rules, wherever necessary, have been made from time to time to facilitate expendtious disposal of work in the Settlement Organisation.

(b) No time limit has been fixed as yet. An assessment of the residuary problem in the Organisation of the Chief Settlement Commissioner is, however, being made.

Out of Turn Allotment

598. Shri Chuni Lal: Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officials who have been sanctioned accommodation out of turn in the years 1958-59, 1959-60 and 1960-61 year-wise and salary-range-wise?

(b) the number of officials who have sanctioned accommodation on over-riding priority with reasons for sanction;

(c) the number of officials category-wise who are on the waiting list for accommodation as out-of-turn;

(d) the number of officials sanctioned allotment out-of-turn more than one or two years ago who have not yet been provided with accommodation; and

(e) what steps Government are taking to provide accommodation to those persons who are on the waiting list of out-of-turn allotment and are in need of accommodation immediately?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). The number of officers entitled to accommodation from the General Pool in Delhi|New Delhi who were accorded sanctions for allotment on out-of-turn or over-riding priority basis during the years 195-59, 1959-60 and 1960-61 is given class-wise in the statement laid on the Table. [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 72]. Sanctions for over-riding priority, which are accorded with the approval of the Minister or the Deputy Minister, are generally given on the following grounds:—

(i) On medical grounds duly recommended by the Directorate General of Health Services;

(ii) Termination of tenancy or sub-tenancy under the orders of the Court;

(iii) To a son or daughter in Government service in the event of death of his or her father occupying Government accommodation;

(iv) To a son or daughter in Government service in the event of the retirement from service of his or her father, provided the sum total of his or her pay and the pension of the father does not exceed Rs. 250/- p.m.

(v) When a private house occupied by an officer is damaged or is in a dangerous condition due to acts of God; and

(vi) In any other case of exceptional hardship.

(c) and (d). The position as on the 1st August 1961 is given in the statement laid on the Table. [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 73].

(e) Allotments are dependent on the occurrence of vacancies in the existing residences or the completion of residences under construction. The allocation of vacancies for out-of-turn allotments has to be made with due regard to the needs and legitimate expectations of officers waiting for their normal turns. However, a fair percentage of 'G', 'F' and 'E' class quarters near Munirka Village, which are nearing completion, is proposed to be set aside for out-of-turn allotment. This would be apart from afair percentage of vacancies in the existing colonies being made available for out-of-turn allotments.

Export of Jute

599. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the exports of raw jute have been steadily declining;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the position?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) The export of raw jute is not allowed.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Fertilizer Programme

600. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Shri Chuni Lal:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dr. Raymond Ewell, an U.S. expert on Agriculture, has expressed the view that the progress of India's fertilizer programme is poor;

(b) whether he has submitted his report also;

(c) if so, main findings and recommendations therein;

(d) whether Government have considered them; and

(e) if so, action taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) to (e). Dr. Ewell's Report has not yet been received.

भारत चीन सीमा विवाद सम्बन्धी रिपोर्ट

६०१. **श्री खुशवक्त राय :** क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) भारत-चीन सीमा विवाद के बारे में भारतीय पदाधिकारियों ने जो रिपोर्ट पेश की थी क्या वह भारत की प्रादेशिक भाषाओं में भी प्रकाशित की गई थी;

(ख) यदि हां, तो भाषावार कितनी प्रतियां प्रकाशित की गई ; और

(ग) उन प्रतियों में से कितनी प्रतियां निःशुल्क वितरित की गईं ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (डा० केसकर) : (क) जी, हां। अब तक रिपोर्ट गुजराती, मलयालम, और उर्दू में छप चुकी हैं। इसके हिन्दी, असामिया, गुरुमुखी, कन्नड़, मराठी, उरिया, और तमिल संस्करण छप रहे हैं। बंगला और तेलगु संस्करण के मैनुस्क्रिप्ट (manuscript) तैयार हो रहे हैं।

(ख) भाषा	छापी जा चुकी या छापी जा रही प्रतियों की संख्या	
गुजराती	३०००	
उर्दू	२०००	
मलयालम	४०००	
हिन्दी	७०००	छप रही हैं
तमिल	४०००	,,
गुरुमुखी	२०००	,,
मराठी	३०००	,,
कन्नड़	३०००	,,
असमिया	२०००	,,
उरिया	२०००	,,

(ग) गुजराती और उर्दू संस्करणों की ५,००० प्रतियां निःशुल्क बांटी गई हैं। अन्य भाषाओं के संस्करणों की प्रतियां भी निःशुल्क बांटी जायेंगी।

Naga Hostiles

602. Shri Amjad Ali: Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that twenty armed Naga hostiles were killed in two encounters during the last week of April, 1961 in Tuensang district of Nagaland; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). An Assam Rifles column from the Tuensang district raided two Naga hostile camps on the 26th April, 1961, and the 3rd May, 1961, respectively. A total of 22 hostiles were killed and 1 captured during these encounters. The Assam Rifles casualties were, 2 Junior Commisioner Officers and 2 Other Ranks killed and 2 Other Ranks injured.

Seven Rifles, 1 Tommy gun, 2 Shot guns, 3 Hand Grenades and some ammunition was recovered from the hostile hide-outs.

Export of Shoes to Russia

603. Shri Hem Barua: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 24 on the 15th February, 1961 and state:

(a) whether the information about the number of each selected pattern required by the purchasers of ladies shoes in Russia has since been received; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of the orders for ladies shoes procured from the purchasing organisations in U.S.S.R. for 1961 are given below:—

Ladies' High Heel	65,000
Ladies' Medium	11,000
Ladies' Low	93,000
Total	1,69,000 pairs

Hindustan Machine Tools Factory, Bangalore

604. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1523 on the 14th April, 1961 and state the further progress made in re-starting

workers' participation scheme in the Hindustan Machine Tools Factory at Bangalore?

The Deputy Minister of Planning and Labour and Employment (Shri L. N. Mishra): The representative character of the unions has been decided and action to restart joint management council is being taken by the management.

Export of Manganese Ore

605. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1526 on the 14th April, 1961 and state:

(a) whether Government have considered matters relating to the export of manganese ore on barter basis; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Under the current export policy for manganese ore, the export of manganese ore under barters is allowed provided (a) the deal is on Government to Government level, and (b) where the foreign buyer of manganese ore is also a consumer. Against export of manganese ore under barters import of steel and steel items is being considered.

Trade Agreement with Russia

606. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3320 on the 14th April, 1961 and state:

(a) whether negotiations regarding trade agreement with Russia have started; and

(b) if so, whether there is any prospect of export of handloom products to Russia?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) No, Sir. The present Trade Agreement with the USSR was signed on 16.11.58 and it is valid upto 31.12.62. The agreement is reviewed before the beginning of every calender year. The next review will be undertaken before the beginning of 1962.

(b) Th prospects of export of handloom fabrics to the USSR will be considered when the Trade Agreement is reviewed next.

Watch Factory in J. & K. State

607. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3330 on the 14th April, 1961 and state:

(a) whether Government have since considred the proposal for installation of a watch factory in Jammu and Kashmir State; and

(b) if so, with what result?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). The proposal has not been found feasible as the party does not want to undertake the scheme themselves but wants it to be taken up by the State Government. The scheme is not being further progressed.

Joint Management Councils

608. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that representatives of major undertakings in the private sector were invited to Delhi in the fourth week of March 1961 to discuss the question of setting up Joint Management Councils in their undertakings;

(b) if so, the result of talks; and

(c) what is the programme for future in this respect?

The Deputy Minister of Planning and Labour and Employment (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) and (b). Representatives of a few undertakings were invited, but the meetings were postponed.

(c) Efforts to set up Joint Management Councils in selected undertakings are being made.

New division for Africa in External Affairs Ministry

609. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the proposal for the creation of a new division for Africa in the External Affairs Ministry; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Yes.

(b) It has been decided to create such a Division.

Concentration of Economic Power

610. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state·

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India is seriously examining the possibility of taking administrative steps to prevent the concentration of economic power in a few hands; and

(b) if so, the main features of the proposal which is under examination?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). The objectives of Government's policy and the broad features of the various measures that are continuously being taken in this behalf have been exploined in the Five Year Plans, in the various resolutions of Government and the statements of the Prime Minister, inside and outside the Parliament. Also the Third Five Year Plan document contains all the aspects of these policies.

With this end in view, Government are continually taking steps—legislative, administrative and fiscal—to bring about decentralisation of economic power.

Loss of Files Regarding Allotment of Evacuee Land in the Punjab

611. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Shri Chuni Lal:

Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1772 on the 27th April, 1961 and state:

(a) the result of efforts made in tracing remaining files relating to allotment of evacuee land in Punjab which were missing; and

(b) the action taken against the officers responsible?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) and (b). 13 files have so far been traced. For the remaining files, the Punjab Government is pursuing the matter with the Deputy Commissioners concerned. Nobody has been punished so far as with the lapse of time it is not easy to fix responsibility.

Deporation of Indian Political Prisoners to Portugal

612. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Chuni Lal:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 772 on the 13th March, 1961 and state:

(a) whether any further information has been received from the United Arab Republic Embassy about the reported deportation of Indian political prisoners to Portugal; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). The First Secretary of the United Arab Republic who recently visited Goa, officially, has confirmed that Shri Mohan Laxman Ranade, an Indian political prisoner

in Goa, was deported to Lisbon. The Government of India have lodged a protest against this deportation with the Government of Portugal through the Embassy of the United Arab Republic. Government have also arranged some food and clothing to be sent to Shri Ranade through the International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva.

Allocation of Spindlage and Loomage to Madras

613. **Shri Goray:**
Shri Pangarkar:
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 25 on the 15th February, 1961 and state:

(a) whether Government have made the allocation of spindlage and loomage to the Madras State during the Third Five Year period and has finalised its quota; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). Decisions with regard to the allocation of spindles to the Madras State, as well as to all other States during the Third Plan are expected to be announced very shortly. The question of allocation of looms is still under consideration.

Closure of Textile Mills

614. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 774 on the 13th March, 1961 and state:

(a) whether some more closed textile mills have been restarted since March 1961; and

(b) if so, the number of such mills?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One Mill.

Influx of Tibetans

615. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:**
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of **India** have recently issued any directions to the Government of West Bengal regarding the influx of Tibetans into India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). Government of India have not issued any directions specifically to the Government of West Bengal. However, from time to time, Government do issue instructions for the guidance of the State Governments in regard to Tibetan refugees. It will not be desirable to disclose details thereof. Government wish to affirm, however, that there is no change in their policy to grant asylum to those Tibetans who seek it.

Trade with Russia

616. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:**
Shri Radha Raman:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken to step up trade with the Soviet Union during the current year; and

(b) the increase in trade as a result of such steps taken?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) India's trade with the U.S.S.R. under the Trade Agreement signed in 1958 is reviewed every six months to explore the possibilities of increasing the trade on a balanced basis. Trade Delegations are also exchanged with the U.S.S.R. for this purpose.

(b) The trade is likely to show an increase over the year, but it is to early to estimate the extent of the increase.

Diplomatic Relations with North and South Korea

617. { **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** / **Shri Radha Raman:** }

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Governments of North and South Korea have expressed their desire directly or indirectly for establishing diplomatic relations with India;

(b) whether the question of recognising the Governments of these countries has been considered recently;

(c) if so, the nature of decision taken; and

(d) the reaction of Government with regard to any suggestion received?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a). There has been no formal request, but informal requests have been received.

(b) to (d). The policy of the Government of India in regard to the two Koreas is not to do anything which may help to perpetuate the division of the country. We have trade relations with both South and North Korea.

Hospital at Bangalore under Employees' State Insurance Scheme

618. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made up-to-date in the construction of 170-bed hospital at Bangalore by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation;

(b) the amount spent so far; and

(c) when the hospital will be opened for admission?

The Deputy Minister of Planning and Labour and Employment (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) Construction work of the main hospital building is nearing completion.

(b) Rs. 17,53,845 upto 30-6-61.

(c) It is expected to be brought into use by the end of 1961. Meanwhile the hospital is functioning in rented accommodation.

Quarters for Coal Miners

619. { **Shri Kunhan:** / **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** }

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cheap quarters constructed so far by the Coal Mines Welfare Organisation out of the one lakh proposed to be constructed;

(b) the amount spent on them; and

(c) how many will be constructed at Kothagudium, Bellampalli, Yelandev and Ramagundam, Andhra Pradesh?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) None has been constructed so far, but 25,000 houses and 417 barracks have been sanctioned for 1961-62 and their construction is expected to begin by about October 1961.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) For construction during 1961-62 the share of Andhra Pradesh coalfield is 1,224 houses and 20 barracks. The colliery owners have applied for construction of 1,100 houses in Kothagudium and 1,000 houses in Yellandu and these will be allotted to them, on condition that 876 houses will be adjusted against the share of Andhra Pradesh for subsequent years. No application has been received in respect of Ballampalli and Ramagundam coal-fields.

Consumer Price Index Numbers

620. { **Shri Kunhan:** / **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:**

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the family budget enquiries for compilation of consumer price index numbers for manual and non-manual workers have since been concluded;

(b) if so, when the new series are likely to be compiled; and

(c) whether a copy of the results of enquiries will be laid on the Table?

The Deputy Minister of Planning and Labour and Employment (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) Yes.

(b) Preparatory work is in progress.

(c) Copies will be supplied to Parliament Library.

Goa Week

621. **Shrimati Maimoona Sultan:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'Goa Week' was observed from June 12 to 18 this year in the various parts of the country;

(b) if so, what major appeals/demands were made in connection with these celebrations; and

(c) what is Government's attitude towards the same?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) to (c). The Government of India have seen reports about the observance of the 'Goa Week' in various parts of the country and understand that various measures, including the boycott of Portuguese ships and aircraft, the severance of diplomatic relations with Portugal and approaches to friendly countries, have been advocated. Government's policy towards these areas which is kept under constant review, has taken such suggestions, which have also been made in the past, into full account.

South East Asian States Association

622 { **Shrimati Maimoona Sultan:** / **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:**

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to join the Association of South East Asian States; and

(b) what are the aims and objects of the Association?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). The aims and objects of the Association are to forge close cooperation among the three member countries of the Association (*viz.*, Thailand, the Philippines and the Federation of Malaya) in the economic, cultural, scientific, educational, technical and artistic fields. Talks between the three member countries on what shape the proposed co-operation should take are still going on. The question of India joining the Association does not arise.

Haj Pilgrims

623. **Shri Kodiyan:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided that pilgrims who have once performed Haj will not be permitted to go a second time before three years have elapsed since their first journey; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The decision was taken, in consultation with the interests concerned, for the following reasons:

(i) The demand for Haj passages has been increasing for some years past.

(ii) The carrying capacity of Mogul Line Ltd., the Shipping company, which caters to the Haj traffic, is limited.

(iii) Difficulties were experienced by pilgrims every year on account of delay which occurred in their returning home. The pilgrims congregate at Jedda in large numbers and demand early passages. In view of limited passage facilities it was impossible to send every pilgrim back to India at once.

(iv) While there are people who have not been able to secure passage to perform Haj even once in their life, cases came to the notice of Government where certain individuals had been going to Saudi Arabia regularly for a number of years ostensibly for Haj pilgrimage.

नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस के भाषण व लेख

६२४. **श्री भक्त दर्शन :**
श्री दी० चं० शर्मा :

क्या **सूचना और प्रसारण** मंत्री २३ फरवरी, १९६१ के अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या ४३६ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस के भाषणों व लेखों को संकलित तथा प्रकाशित करने की दिशा में अब तक क्या प्रगति हुई है ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (डा० केसकर) : विदेशों मे जो सामग्री प्राप्त हुई थी उसकी छान बीन कर ली गई है और मैनुस्क्रिप्ट (Manuscript) में शामिल कर ली गई है । यह पुस्तक अब सिवाय जीवनी सम्बन्धी भूमिका के जिसको श्री एस० ए० आयर लिख रहे हैं, तैयार है । उम्मीद है कि सम्पूर्ण मैनुस्क्रिप्ट को छपने के लिये शीघ्र हीं प्रेस में भेज दिया जायेगा ।

Repairs to residences of Members of Planning Commission

625. **Shri A. M. Tariq**: Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state the expenditure incurred in carrying out repairs etc. at the residence of each Member of the Planning Commission during the years 1959, 1960 and 1961 (to date)?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Coolers Supplied to Ministers etc.

626. **Shri A. M. Tariq**: Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state the number of coolers supplied at the residence of each Minister, Deputy Minister and Member of the Planning Commission in the years 1959, 1960 and 1961?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): A statement containing the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 74]

Quarters in Gole Market Area

627. **Shri S. M. Banerjee**: Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gole Market Area Government quarters have been upgraded from regular 'F' to regular 'E';

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) how many quarters have thus been upgraded;

(d) how for Government have benefited financially by this upgrading; and

(e) whether the present allottees who have become ineligible for these quarters due to the upgrading have been provided alternative accommodation?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) to (d). Many of the older houses contructed in more popular localities before and during the war had more living area, amenities, lawns/courts and gardens etc., as compared to new flats of corresponding or even higher classes constructed in distant localities. There was thus considerable disparity in the quantum of accommodation available in different classes of residences. Owing to financial stringency, it had also been decided to restrict the new construction of residences in higher classes. With a view to the utilisation of the available funds largely for construction of houses for lower income groups and also to reduce the element of subsidy involved in the recovery of rent, 2,317 residential units under the control of the Director of Estates were upgraded in Delhi/New Delhi in the year 1959. Of these 970 Government quarters in Gole Market Area have been upgraded from Regular 'F' to Regular 'E' class.

(e) Alternative accommodation is provided to those out-of-class officers who wish to shift from the residences to which they are no longer entitled subsequent to upgrading. Their shifting compulsorily from the existing residences has been stayed for the present.

Code of Discipline

628. **Shri S. M. Banerjee**: Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Code of Discipline has been accepted by the Ministries of Railways, Defence and Transport and Communications; and

(b) if so, whether this has been made known to the workers' organisations?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) While the Code has been accepted by the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the question of its adoption by the Port Trusts is under consideration. The Ministry of Defence are also considering the question of the application of the Code to its undertakings. The Ministry of Railways do not consider it necessary to adopt the Code as, in their view, its main objectives are secured through their long established procedures and conventions.

(b) Yes.

National Productivity Council

629. { **Shri S. C. Samanta**;
Shri Subodh Hansda:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that six study teams of National Productivity Council will be formed which will visit the Soviet bloc countries to study improved industrial productivity techniques;

(b) if so, who will bear the expenses of those visits;

(c) when they are expected to start; and

(d) how the teams will be formed?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) The National Productivity Council has sponsored five productivity teams to USSR and Czechoslovakia to study improved industrial productivity techniques.

(b) The cost of international travel and the expenditure in the USSR and Czechoslovakia would be borne by the respective Governments.

(c) The Teams left for their study tour during June and July, 1961.

(d) These Teams were constituted after inviting suggestions from a large number of organisations, institutions, associations, Government Departments etc., and keeping in view a balanced representation of the employers, workers and the technicians.

Fact-finding Mission in Congo

630. { **Shri Tangamani:**
Shri Indrajit Gupta:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. C. V. Narasimhan was sent from U.N. headquarters to the Congo to find facts regarding the U.N. operations in Congo;

(b) whether the Government of India is aware of his report; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

The prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) to (c). Shri C. V. Narasimhan, U.N. Under Secretary for Special Political Affairs, was sent to Congo early in May, 1961, by the U.N. Secretary-General. He is a U.N. official and the purpose of his visit to the Congo was not intimated to the Government of India. Nor are they aware of his report to the Secretary-General which was not made public.

Double-storey Quarters for Delhi Slum-dwellers

631. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:** Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scheme for construction of a number of double-storey quarters in Delhi for slum-dwellers has recently been approved by the Government of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when it is likely to be executed?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A statement showing the particulars of slum clearance projects sanctioned for construction of double-storeyed/multi-storeyed houses in Delhi for rehousing of slum-dwellers is laid on the Table. [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 75].

Broadcasts for West Asia and South-East Asia

632. **Shri Balraj Madhok:** Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state what is total time allotted in a week for Broadcasts meant for the countries of West Asia and South-East Asia?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): The total time per week devoted to broadcasts from All India Radio to West Asia and South East Asia is 30 hours and 54 hours 15 minutes respectively.

Allotment of Quarters

633. **Shri Balraj Madhok:** Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) (i) the total number of 'G' and 'SF' types of quarters allotted to Central Government employees in New Delhi during 1958, 1959 and 1960; (Figures to be given separately for each class and year).

(ii) Out of these how many were allotted 'out of turn'; and

(b) the total number of Government employees drawing pay of Rs. 250 or more who have been allotted 'G' and 'SF' types quarters as on 1st April, 1961?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) (i) The total number of 'G' and 'SF' types of quarters allotted during 1958, 1959 and 1960, is given below:

	1958	1959	1960
'G' class	2,304	489	889
'SF' class	869	313	411

(ii) The figures for out-of-turn allotment during the corresponding period in 'G' and 'SF' classes are:

	1958	1959	1960
'G' class	379	144	450
'SF' class	263	195	270

(b) The total number of employees drawing pay of Rs. 250 or more per mensem who have been allotted 'G' and 'SF' types of quarters as on the 1st April, 1961, is:

Class	No.
'G'	730
'SF'	1,288

Local Development Works in Orissa

634. Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi: Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of financial assistance given by the Central Government to Orissa Government under the local development works schemes during the entire Second Five Year Plan period upto 31st March, 1961;

(b) the amount of unspent balance available with Government till 31st March, 1961; and

(c) the amount of financial assistance given by the Central Government to Orissa Government under this scheme for 1961-62 period?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) During the Second Plan period a total sum of Rs. 74·42 lakhs was allocated to Orissa Government for local development works.

(b) During the Second Plan period, the State Government have reported a total expenditure of Rs. 51·508 lakhs. Payments are made on the basis of actual expenditure. Hence no surplus balance is available with Orissa Government on 31-3-1961.

(c) For 1961-62, a sum of Rs. 23·00 lakhs has been allocated to Orissa Government.

दिल्ली में 'सिक्किम हाउस'

६३५. **श्री नवल प्रभाकर :** क्या **निर्माण, आवास और संभरण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने दिल्ली में 'सिक्किम हाउस" के लिये भूमि दे दी है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो यह भूमि कहां होगी; और

(ग) यह 'हाउस' बनाने का उद्देश्य क्या है ?

निर्माण, आवास और संभरण उपमंत्री (श्री अनिल कु० चंदा) : (क) से (ग). जी हां। चाणक्यपुरी, नई दिल्ली में जमीन का ०.६०२ एकड़ का एक टुकड़ा सिक्किम दरबार को एक निवास भवन बनाने के लिये दिया गया है, जो वहां के शासक, उनके परिवार के सदस्यों तथा दरबार के अधिकारियों के दिल्ली आगमन पर उनके उपयोग में आयेगा।

Indian Foreign Service

636. Shri Balraj Madhok: Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is discrimination betwen temporary and permanent employes of IFS(B) with regard to taking UPSC examinations; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) No, Sir. Officers of IFS (B), however, whether temporary or permanent, are not allowed to compete for non-IFS posts through the examinations conducted by the UPSC, admision to which is restricted only to officers holding posts in officers covered by the Central Secretariat Service/ Central Secretariat Stenographers Service/Central Secretariat Clerical Service.

(b) Does not arise.

पुनर्वास मंत्रालय में छंटनी

६३७. **श्री सरजू पाण्डेय :** क्या **पुनर्वास तथा अल्पसंख्यक-कार्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि पुनर्वास मंत्रालय के कितने कर्मचारी अब भी बेकार पड़े हुए हैं और उनको पुनः काम कर लगाने के लिये सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

पुनर्वास उपमंत्री (श्री पू० शे० नास्कर) : वास्तविक अंक तो उपलब्ध नहीं हैं किन्तु जहां तक हम री जानकारी है छंटनी किये गये कर्मचारियों में से अधिकतर या तो विशेष कक्ष द्वारा या अपनी चेष्टाओं से पुन: काम में लगाये जा चुके हैं। १७२३ कर्मकारियों को विशेष कक्ष द्वारा नौकरी दिलाई गई है। इसके अतिरिक्त बहुत लोगों ने अपने निजी प्रयास से नौकरियां प्राप्त कीं। छंटनी किये गये कर्मचारियों के सेवा विवरण जो कि केन्द्रीय सचिवालय सेवा से सम्बन्ध नहीं रखते थे, रोजगार तथा प्रशिक्षण महानिदेशालय को भेज दिये जाते हैं जो कि उन्हें दूसरी जगह काम दिलाने की सब से ऊंची प्रायारटी देता है। हाल ही में गृह मंत्रालय द्वारा पुन: अनुदेश जारी किये गये हैं कि फालतू कर्मचारियों को काम दिलाने का प्रत्येक प्रयत्न करना चाहिये न केवल सरकारी विभागों में ही अपितु शासकीय क्षेत्र के उपक्रमणों में भी। पवलिक सेक्टर के कारखानों ने भी इन बेरोजगार वाले कर्मचारियों को काम देना मान लिया है। प्रथम तथा द्वितीय श्रेणी के कर्मचारियों के लिये एक विशेष चुनाव बोर्ड संघ लोक सेवा आयोग के एक सदस्य के सभापतित्व में बनाया गया है ताकि छंटनी किए गए कर्मचारियों को सरकारी विभागों तथा मंत्रालयों में उचित रिक्त स्थानों पर लगाया जाये। इस बोर्ड ने हाल ही में कार्य प्रारम्भ किया है और इसकी सप्ताह में एक बैठक होगी जब तक कि सब छंटनी किए गए कर्मचारी पुन: काम कर नहीं लग जायेंगे।

Educated Unemployed in Kerala

638. Shri A. K. Gopalan: Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent of educated unemployment in Kerala at present;

(b) whether any survey of total unemployment in Kerala has been conducted recently apart from the figures available from the Employment Exchanges; and

(c) whether the problem of unemployment in the State has become more acute during the period of the Second Five-Year Plan?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Precise estimate is not available. However, there were 68, 240 educated persons (matriculates and above) on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges in Kerala at the end of June, 1961.

(b) No.

(c) No specific information for Kerala is available. However, due to large increase in population the backlog of unemployed in the country is estimated to have increased.

Jeeps

639. Shri Muhammed Elias: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that priority permits were given to M/s. Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd., Bombay for the release of their Jeeps in Orissa during the period from February to May 1961; and

(b) if so, the number of jeep released on priority basis?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Registered Unemployed Persons

640. { Shri Bahadur Singh: / Shri Nek Ram Negi: / Shri Anirudh Sinha:

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state the number of persons on the Live Register of the employment exchanges from January, 1961 to the end of July, 1961?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali):

Month	No. of persons on the Live Register as at the end of month
1	2
1961	
January	16,09,736
February	15,96,017
March	15,61,166
April	16,27,449
May	17,05,330
June	17,55,491
July	Not yet available.

Export of Cotton

641. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a communication from the President of the Punjab Cotton Association requesting for release of the undisposed of cotton for export;

(b) if so, how much of cotton is lying undisposed of; and

(c) what is Government's decision thereon?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). It was estimated at one time that about 13,000 bales of cotton were lying undisposed of in Punjab. With the liberal grant of quotas to mills by the Textile Commissioner it is now reported that a major portion of the stocks has been cleared. The position is, however, kept under constant watch.

Industrial Flour Mill Machinery

642. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to manufacture industrial flour mill machinery in the country; and

(b) if so, whether any progress has so far been made in this direction?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A licence under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1961, has been issued to an Indian firm for the manufacture of complete range of industrial flour mill machinery in collaboration with a Yugoslavian firm. The Indian party is yet to import capital equipment required for the manufacturing scheme. The industrial undertaking is likely to go into production towards the end of 1962. So far as domestic type of flour mill machinery is concerned, the country is self-sufficient.

Export of Cotton

643. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of cotton has declined in 1960-61 and 1961-62 so far;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) to (c). Exports of raw cotton from India during the last four years were as follows:

1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61
Sep. to Aug.	Sept. to Aug.	Sept. to Aug.	Sept. to June
Bales	Bales	Bales	Bales
3,07,773	3,90,318	1,98,979	1,89,080

It will be observed that during 1959-60 cotton year there was a sharp fall in exports due to the abnormally low Indian crop of that year. Exports have increased during 1960-61 and before the end of the cotton year, exports are expected to reach about 3 lakhs of bales.

Exports to Singapore

644. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Singapore proposed to buy more consumer and industrial goods from India under her Four Year Plan;

(b) if so, what goods are usually exported from India to that country;

(c) what was the amount of exports of these goods during each of the past three years; and

(d) how much is expected to be exported during 1961?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Singapore's Four Year Plan deals primarily with the expansion of industries and port facilities. It does not contain any specific provision for increased imports from India.

(b) and (c). A statement showing the principal items of our export to Singapore together with their values is laid on the Table. [*See* Appendix V, annexure No. 76].

(d) Exports to Singapore are likely to be higher in 1961 as compared with 1960, but it is not possible to estimate the increase at this stage.

Receiving Centres at Jorhat and Shillong

645. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state:

(a) whether two receiving centres at Jorhat and Shillong are proposed to be set up under the Medium Wave Plan of the All India Radio;

(b) if so, at what cost; and

(c) what action has been taken in the matter so far?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) Under the Medium Wave Plan, a 50 K.W.M.W. transmitter and 1 K.W.M.W. transmitter along with their associated receiving centres are proposed to be installed at Jorhat and Shillong respectively.

(b) The estimated cost is as follows:—

	Transmitter (Rs. in lakhs)	Receiving Centre (Rs. in lakhs)
Jorhat . .	16·00	1·50
Shillong . .	1·00	1·50

(c) *Jorhat*: The sites have been selected and the State Government has been requested to acquire them. Orders for the main transmitting equipment have been placed.

Shillong: A detailed survey for finding suitable locations has been undertaken. Orders for the main transmitting equipment have been placed.

Medium Wave Transmitter at Jorhat

646. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state:

(a) whether a 20 K.W. Medium Wave Transmitter is proposed to be installed at Jorhat;

(b) if so, at what cost; and

(c) what progress has been made in that direction so far?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) It is proposed to install a 50 K.W. medium wave transmitter at Jorhat.

(b) Rs. 16 lakhs approximately.

(c) The site has been selected and the State Government has been requested to acquire it.

Imports from Belgium

647. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian imports from Belgium have been on the increase;

(b) how do the import figures from that country compare with the export figures to that country during each of the past five years;

(c) what are the main items of import from and the items of export to that country;

(d) whether there is a scheme to realise a favourable balance of trade with that country during the coming year; and

(e) if so, what are its details?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The quantum of trade between India and Belgium during the last five years has been as under:—

(Value in Rs. Lakhs)

Year	Imports	Exports including re-exports	Balance of trade
1956	23,42	8,08	—15,34
1957	21,94	6,58	—15,36
1958	16,59	4,64	—11,95
1959	13,60	5,14	—8,46
1960	15,99	5,04	—10,95

(c) The principal items of import from Belgium are base metals, plant and machinery, transport equipment, manufactured fertilizers, chemical elements and compounds, manufactures of metals, electric machinery apparatus and appliances, scientific and other instruments, photographic and optical goods and textile fibres and yarns. The principal items of export to Belgium are coffee, tobacco, oil cakes, raw wool, mica, manganese ore, bones, leather, cotton (raw and waste), cotton piece-goods, mats and matting of wool and coir, shellac, gums and resins and cashew kernels.

(d) and (e). There is no particular scheme for Belgium alone apart from the efforts to restrict imports generally and to promote India's exports to all countries.

Promotion of Exports

648. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bengal Millowners' Association in its 27th Annual General Meeting in April held in Calcutta suggested a study of the incentives given by foreign countries for promotion of exports and to introduce the same in India; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) and (b). The attention of the Government has been drawn to the speech referred to by the hon. Member. A study of the incentives given by foreign countries for the promotion of exports was made a little over two years ago. The methods adopted in other countries were kept in mind in formulating our own Export Promotion Schemes. A Committee has been set up recently to review *inter-alia* the efficacy of the existing export promotion measures and to make suitable recommendations.

Burragarh Colliery

649. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) whether a roof collapse accident occurred in Burragarh Colliery on or about 10th June, 1961; and

(b) if so, what loss of life and property was involved in the accident?

The Deputy Minister of Planning and Labour and Employment (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) Yes, on the 10th June, 1961.

(b) The accident involved loss of four lives but no loss of property.

International Silk Congress in London

650. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1696 on the 24th

April, 1961 and state the main points raised at the eighth Congress of International Silk Association at London held in June, 1961 by the Indian delegation?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): 1. Ways and means to increase the world production of cocoons.

2. Export of pure silk worm races from sericulturally advanced countries.

3. International co-operation in exchange of information on the results of research in the improvement of silk worm seed.

United Provinces Commercial Corporation

651. { **Shri Kunhan:** / **Shri Tangamani:**

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 677 on the 28th February, 1961 and state:

(a) whether in view of the fact that the United Provinces Commercial Corporation has been repeatedly violating the Sea Customs Regulations it has been black-listed;

(b) whether any licences have been issued to this Corporation during 1960-61; and

(c) if so, the details thereof

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) No, Sir. Care is taken to see that the firms who have committed any major violation of the Foreign Exchange Rules or the Rules and Regulations under the Import Trade Control Regulations are not granted any licence under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1961;

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Production of Automobiles

652. **Shri Daljit Singh:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cars, jeeps and trucks produced by the different automobile manufacturers during the first half of the year 1961; and

(b) how does it compare with the last year?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b) The production figures for cars, jeeps and commercial vehicles for the first half of 1961 and the corresponding period of 1960 compare as follows:

	Jan.-June 1961	Jan.-June 1960
	(Nos.)	(Nos.)
Cars	12,151	9,218
Jeeps	3,459	3,045
Commercial Vehicles	13,966	12,213
	29,576	24,476

Import of Goods by the State Trading Corporation

653. **Shri Daljit Singh:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent by the State Trading Corporation for the import of goods during the first half of the year 1961; and

(b) the total value of exports of Indian goods handled by the corporation during the same period?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Rs. 8,79·50 lakhs approximately.

(b) Rs. 22,24·08 lakhs approximately.

Industrial Disputes in Punjab

654. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of labour disputes which arose in Punjab State during 1960-61 and 1961-62 so far; and

(b) the number of those out of them which have been settled?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali):

(*a*) No. of disputes	
1960-61 . . .	1908
1961-62 (April to June)	368
(*b*) (i) No. of disputes settled in conciliation	
1960-61 . .	810
1961-62 (April to June)	225
(ii) No. of disputes referred to adjudication	
1960-61	368
1961-62	49

Small Scale Industries

655. { Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Federation of Association of small industries have represented about their difficulties in obtaining finance on easy terms and foreign exchange for their requirements of raw materials and machinery; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to meet their demands?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table. [*See* Appendix I, Annexure No. 77].

Newsprint Industry

656. Shri Khimji: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the present position about the newsprint industry in India;

(b) whether new licences have been given;

(c) if so, the names of the parties and the capacities for which licences have been granted; and

(d) whether certain licences for manufacture of newsprint are still pending with Government?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):

(a) (i) Present demand .	105,000 tons/110,000 tons per annum.
(ii) Anticipated demand by the end of the Third Plan period . .	150,000 tons/per annum.
(iii) Production	24,000 tons per annum.

About 83,000 tons of newsprint is imported annually to fill the gap.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c)

	Name of the Mill	*Location*	*Capacity (Newsprint)* Tons/year.
(i)	Shri Gopal Paper Mills Ltd. Calcutta.	Kangra Dt. (Punjab)	30,000 (Thirty thousand) (60,000 tons under consideration)
(ii)	M/s. Rohtas Industries Ltd., Dalmianagar.	Karad (Maharashtra)	30,000 [(Thirty thousand) (60,000 tons under consideration)
(iii)	M/s. Birla Gwalior Private Ltd.	BOMBAY (Applied for change of location to U.P.)	30,000 (Thirty housand) (60,000 tons under consideration)

(d) Yes, Sir. But it has been decided not to consider licensing of further capacities for the manufacture of paper, paper pulp, newsprint or rayons grade pulp for one year more.

Fountain Pens

657. Shri Kalika Singh: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the existing installed capacity of fountain-pen manufacturing units in India and actual production of fountain-pens during 1958-59, 1959-60 and 1960-61 State-wise;

(b) the yearly requirements fountain-pens in India;

(c) the number and value of Indian fountain-pen exported to Asian and African countries during 1958-59, 1959-60 and 1960-61; and

(d) the future prospects of manufacture and trade of fountain-pens in India and trend of exports?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). The figures are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Prospects of manufacture and trade of fountain-pens in the country are brighter. The exports show an upward trend every year.

Yarn Factories in U.P.

658. Shri Kalika Singh: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the progress in production of the first yarn preparatory factory established at Khalilabad in Basti dirstrict of U.P. State with the help of the Union Government;

(b) the locations of the other preparatory yarn factories and power looms in U.P. State and details of schemes relating thereto; and

(c) whether the renowned Handloom Centre of U.P. at Mau in Azamgarh district is to have a yarn factory in the near future?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) The factory at Khallabad was commissioned on 23-5-61 and about 6,000 lbs. of yarn has been processed so far.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table [*See* Appendix I annexure No. 78].

(c) Yes, Sir.

Poverty in Eastern Uttar Pradesh

659. Shri Kalika Singh: Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state:

(a) with reference to report of the Foodgrains Inquiry Committee regarding conditions of actue poverty of Eastern U.P. requiring special attention of the Planning Commission what projects have been approved for relieving the area of the actue shortage of purchasing power and resources; and

(b) the steps taken to establish industires in the area as a measure of special treatment?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) and (b). The State Government is fully alive to the conditions of poverty prevailing in Eastern Districts of Uttar Pradesh and in the Third Plan special attention has been given to this area. A list of the main projects included in the Tihrd Plan for Irrigation & Village & Small Scale Industries is laid on the Table. For Flood protection measure, more than 50 per cent of the outlay earmarked for the purpose in the Third Plan will be spent in the Eastern Districts. [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 79].

वैदेशिक-कार्य मंत्रालय में हिन्दी का प्रयोग

६६०. श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उनके मंत्रालय तथा उससे संलग्न कार्यालयों में इस समय कितने अनुभाग हैं और उनमें से कितने ऐसे हैं जिनमें हिन्दी जानने वालों की बहुसंख्या है; और

(ख) कितने अनुभागों को हिन्दी में टिप्पण (नोट) और पत्रों के प्रारूप (ड्राफ्ट) लिखने की अनुमति दी गई है ?

प्रधान मंत्री तथा वैदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री (श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू) : (क) विदेश मंत्रालय के ८० अनुभागों में से केवल २० अनुभागों में लगभग ५० प्रतिशत कर्मचारी

ऐसे हैं जो हिन्दी का कामचलाऊ ज्ञान रखने का दावा करते हैं और संलग्न कार्यालयों में से केवल एक, क्षेत्रीय पासपोर्ट कार्यालय, दिल्ली, में लगभग ५० प्रतिशत ऐसे हैं, जिन्हें हिन्दी का कामचलाऊ ज्ञान है ।

(ख) इस विषय पर सक्रिय रूप से विचार हो रहा है कि कुछ चुने हुए अनुभागों में, हिन्दी में टिप्पण लिखने और मसौदा बनाने का काम शुरू किया जाय ।

वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्रालय में हिन्दी का प्रयोग

६६१. **श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री** : क्या **वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) उनके मंत्रालय तथा उससे संलग्न कार्यालयों में इस समय कितने अनुभाग हैं और उनमें से कितने अनुभाग ऐसे हैं जिनमें हिन्दी जानने वालों की बहुसंख्या है ; और

(ख) कितने अनुभागों को हिन्दी में टिप्पण (नोट) और पत्रों के प्रारूप (ड्राफ्ट) लिखने की अनुमति दी गई है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री कानूनगो) : (क) इस मंत्रालय तथा उससे संलग्न कार्यालयों (शाखा सचिवालय, बम्बई को छोड़ कर) में २७१ अनुभाग हैं । इन में से १३७ के अधिकांश व्यक्तियों ने हिन्दी लेकर मैट्रिक अथवा उससे ऊंची परीक्षायें पास कर ली हैं ।

(ख) मंत्रालय (मुख्य) के दो अनुभागों को हिन्दी में टिप्पण (नोट) और प्रारूप (ड्राफ्ट) प्रस्तुत करने की अनुमति दे दी गई है ।

सरकारी मुद्रणालयों द्वारा खरीदा गया टाइप

६६२. **श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री** : क्या **निर्माण, आवास और संभरण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) कलकत्ता तथा अलीगढ़ स्थित भारत सरकार के फार्म प्रेसों में कुल कितना टाइप खरीदा गया और उसमें हिन्दी का टाइप कितना था ;

(ख) हिन्दी का कौन-कौन सा ऐसा टाइप है जिसकी इन प्रेसों में हिन्दी के प्रपत्र (फार्म) तथा पत्र शीर्षक (लैटर हैड) आदि छापने के लिये आवश्यकता पड़ती है और जो उपलब्ध नहीं है ; और

(ग) उस टाइप को प्राप्त करने के लिये क्या प्रबन्ध किया गया है ?

निर्माण, आवास तथा सम्भरण उपमंत्री (श्री अनिल कु० चंदा) : (क) पिछले पांच वर्षों में इन मुद्रणालयों के लिये कोई टाइप नहीं खरीदा गया ।

(ख) जिन टाइपों की आवश्यकता होती है, उन्हें साधारणतया मोनो-ढलाई मशीनों द्वारा ढाला जाता है और वर्तमान आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिये हिन्दी टाइप पर्याप्त मात्रा में विद्यमान हैं ।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

सरकारी मुद्रणालयों में टाइप की कमी

६६३. **श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री** : क्या **निर्माण, आवास और सम्भरण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सन् १९६१ में फार्मस् प्रैस, कलकत्ता तथा अलीगढ़ में हिन्दी अथवा हिन्दी अंग्रेजी की छपाई का कितना काम हिन्दी टाइप की कमी के कारण लौटा दिया गया अथवा इस समय रुका पड़ा है ; और

(ख) हिन्दी टाइप की कमी के कारण फार्म और लैटर हैड की हिन्दी में छपाई में देरी न हो इसके लिये क्या व्यवस्था की गई है अथवा की जा रही है ?

निर्माण, आवास तथा सम्भरण उपमंत्री (श्री अनिल कु० चंदा) : (क) कुछ नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

समाचारपत्रों की कतरनें

६६४. **श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री** : क्या **सूचना और प्रसारण** मंत्री २५ अगस्त, १९६० के तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या ७७१ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष १९६१ की दूसरी तिमाही में सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय द्वारा समाचारपत्रों की कितनी कतरनें अन्य मंत्रालयों को भेजी गई ; और

(ख) अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी के समाचार-पत्रों से कितनी-कितनी कतरनें ली गईं ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (डा० केसकर) : (क) और (ख). १९६१ की दूसरी तिमाही में प्रैस इन्फार्मेशन ब्यूरो द्वारा अन्य मंत्रालयों को भेजी गई कतरनों की संख्या इस प्रकार है :—

	(लगभग)
अंग्रेजी समाचारपत्रों से	३,००,०००
हिन्दी समाचारपत्रों से	१,०८३
कुल संख्या	३,०१,०८३

संयुक्त प्रबन्ध परिषद्

६६५. **श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी** : क्या **श्रम और रोजगार** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) अब तक कितने प्रतिष्ठानों में संयुक्त प्रबन्ध परिषदें स्थापित हो चुकी हैं ; और

(ख) प्रबन्ध में श्रमिकों के भाग लेने के बारे में विचार करने के लिये सरकार ने जो गोष्ठी बुलाई थी उसकी सिफारिश के अनुसार केन्द्र तथा राज्य स्तरों पर एक सक्रिय व्यवस्था करने का जो सुझाव था उसको कार्यान्वित करने में क्या प्रगति हुई है ?

श्रम उपमंत्री (श्री आबिद अली) : (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) श्रमिकों को प्रबन्ध में शामिल करने संबंधी काम के लिये केन्द्रीय सरकार ने एक अनुभाग स्थापित कर दिया है। राज्य सरकारों को लिखा जा रहा है कि वहां भी इस प्रकार के अनुभाग स्थापित किये जायें।

कोयला खान श्रम कल्याण निधि

६६६. **श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी** : क्या **श्रम और रोजगार** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि कोयला खान श्रम कल्याण निधि की तरफ से इस साल अब तक कितने महिला हितकारी केन्द्र खोले गये हैं और कोयला खान कर्मचारियों के बच्चों को उच्चतर सामान्य शिक्षा के लिये कितनी छात्रवृत्तियां दी गयी हैं ?

श्रम उपमंत्री (श्री आबिद अली) : इस साल अब तक कोई महिला कल्याण केन्द्र नहीं खोला गया। ऐसे केन्द्रों की संख्या जो काम कर रहे हैं ६० हैं। १९६०–६१ में ११२ छात्रवृत्तियां मंजूर की गई।

स्वायत्त और अर्द्धस्वायत्त निकाय

६६७. **श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी** : क्या **वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार स्वायत्त और अर्द्धस्वायत्त निकायों के प्रशासन और आयव्यय को नियंत्रित करने के लिये कोई विधेयक पेश करने का विचार कर रही है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो यह विधेयक कब तक पेश किया जायेगा ;

(ग) क्या इस विधेयक के अन्तर्गत सभी स्वायत्त और अर्द्धस्वायत्त निकाय लाये जायेंगे ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इसका क्या कारण है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री कानूनगो) : (क) जी नहीं; स्वायत्त और अर्द्ध-स्वायत्त

निकायों के प्रकाशन और आय-व्यय को नियंत्रित करने के लिये सरकार का विचार कोई विधेयक पेश करने का नहीं है। किन्तु वह इस सुझाव की जांच कर रही है कि केवल उन निकायों पर वित्तीय नियन्त्रण लगाने और उनके कार्यों का नियमन करने के लिये विधेयक पेश किया जाय जिनकी स्थापना संकल्पों अथवा दूसरे एक्जीक्यूटिव आदेशों पर सरकार द्वारा की जाती है और जिन्हें सरकार से सहायता अनुदान मिलता है।

(ख) मामला अभी विचाराधीन है और संबंधित मंत्रालयों से परामर्श किया जा रहा है। इस समय यह बता सकना सम्भव नहीं है कि संसद् में विधेयक कब तक पेश किया जा सकेगा।

(ग) और (घ). जैसा कि ऊपर भाग (क) में कहा जा चुका है, प्रस्तावित विधेयक केवल उन्हीं निकायों/संस्थाओं तक सीमित रहेगा जिनकी स्थापना सरकार के संकल्पों अथवा दूसरे एक्जीक्यूटिव आदेशों पर की गई है तथा जिन्हें सरकार से सहायता अनुदान मिलता है। उन अन्य स्वायत्त/अर्द्ध-स्वायत्त निकायों को इस विधेयक के क्षेत्र में लाने का विचार नहीं है जो सरकार के नियन्त्रण में न होकर स्वतन्त्र रूप से कार्य कर रहे हैं, क्योंकि उनके लिये कोई खास विधेयक बनाने की आवश्यकता नहीं रह जाती।

रोजगार ढूंढने वालों की आयु सीमा

६६८. **श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी :** क्या **श्रम और रोजगार** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) ऐसे व्यक्तियों के बारे में सरकार क्या नीति निश्चित करना चाहती है जो रोजगार दफ्तरों में जाते जाते सरकारी नौकरी पाने की निश्चित आयु सीमा को पार कर जाते हैं ; और

(ख) क्या सरकार ऐसे लोगों के लिये कोई खास प्रशिक्षण योजना चालू करना चाहती है ?

श्रम उपमंत्री (श्री आबिद अली): (क) और (ख). ऐसे व्यक्ति सरकारी नौकरियों में नहीं लिये जा सकते लेकिन वे उन क्षेत्रों में नौकरियां खोज सकते हैं जिनमें आयु सीमा निश्चित नहीं है। ऐसे उम्मीदवारों के प्रशिक्षण के लिए कोई खास सहूलियतें नहीं हैं। अगर वे योग्य हैं तो मौजूदा प्रशिक्षण केन्द्रों में भर्ती हो सकते हैं

कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि योजना

६६९. **श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी :** क्या **श्रम और रोजगार** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि योजना १९५२ के अधीन मकान की जगह या मकान खरीदने अथवा बनाने के लिये इस साल कितने रुपये की व्यवस्था की गई है ; और

(ख) इस रकम में से अब तक कितनी धनराशि दी जा चुकी है ?

श्रम उपमंत्री (श्री आबिद अली) : (क) कर्मचारी प्रोविडेंट फंड योजना १९५२ के अधीन चन्दा देने वालों को इन कामों के वास्ते अग्रिम रक़म की मंजूरी के लिये धन की अलग से व्यवस्था करने की जरूरत नहीं है। सदस्यों के प्रोविडेंट फंड में जमा धन से अग्रिम रक़में अदा की जाती हैं।

(ख) जून १९६१ तक ७ लाख ५७ हजार रुपये इस प्रकार अग्रिम रक़मों के रूप में मंजूर किये गये।

Textile Industry in Gujerat

670. Shri K. U. Parmar: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Textile industry in Gujerat is affected by less hours of working due to shortage of electricity supply;

(b) if so, what is the reduction in cloth production; and

(c) what action is taken or proposed to be taken to overcome the difficulty?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) to (c). By an order of the Government of Gujarat, the working hours in the Textile Industry in Ahmedabad have been staggered with effect from 22nd May, 1961, in order to effect maximum conservation in the use of electrical energy. As per this order, six groups have been formed for high tension consumers in the city of Ahmedabad which almost covers the entire Textile Industry. Each group shall not work for a day of the week from Monday to Saturday during the specified restricted hours i.e. 8.00 A.M. to 11.00 A.M. and 5.00 P.M., to 10.00 P.M. There is no appreciable fall in production by Textile Industry on account of the above staggering in working hours. Government of India do not, therefore, propose to take any action.

Trade Agreement

671. Shri Khimji: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries with which new trade agreements were concluded or renewed in the year 1960 and in the first half of 1961;

(b) whether any new items have been included in the Schedules of Exports attached to these agreements; and

(c) if so, the names thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) During 1960 and January-June, 1961, new trade agreements were concluded with Bulgaria, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Iran, Jordan, North Korea, Morocco, Pakistan, Tunisia and Yugoslavia. The existing agreements with Afghanistan, France, Greece and Iraq were renewed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) (1) Cumin seeds (2) wool waste (3) glycerine (pharmaceutical and technical) (4) paraffin wax (5) pig iron (6) electric motors and pumps (7) steel furniture (8) storage and dry batteries (9) hosiery, cotton, woollen and art silk (10) fruits (dried, canned and fresh) (11) jams, chutnies and pickles (12) fruit juices and squashes (13) sugar (14) frozen meat (15) frozen fish and prawns (16) coal (17) chemicals (18) magnesium chloride (19) liquid chlorine (20) hydrogen peroxide (21) napthalene, raw (22) textile machinery and accessories (23) diesel engines (vehicular and stationary) (24) refrigerators (25) polystyrene (26) laminated jute bags (27) plastic manufactures (28) air conditioners.

NOTE.—These items are new in the sense that they were included for the first time in the schedule of exports attached to the different trade agreements.

U.N.O.

672. **Shri Agadi:**
Shri M. Rampure:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India will have to pay lesser share towards expenses for running the United Nations Organisation for the next three years, 1962 to 1964;

(b) if so, the estimated amount payable each year; and

(c) the total amount paid annually to United Nations Organisation by Government of India since 1957-58 todate?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). The share of the budget of the United Nations payable by each member State is assessed periodically by a Committee on Contributions, whose report is then considered by the General Assembly. The share is determined on the basis of statistics regarding the *per capita* income of each country, its capacity to pay and similar factors, as well as the size of the membership of the United Nations. On the basis of such data the Committee on Contributions this year fixed India's share for the next 3 years period at 2.03 per cent. as against 2.46 per cent. for the last 3 years. Assuming that the Committee's recommendations are approved by the General Assembly and that the United Nations regular budget will maintain its recent annual average of $70 millions, India's share for each of the next 3 years would be the equivalent of $1,421,000, but actual amounts will depend on the actual U.N. Budgets.

(c) The amounts paid towards the regular U.N. budget since 1957-58 are as follows:—

Year	In Indian rupees	
1957-58 .	50,98,703	
1958-59 .	88,08,947	
1959-60 .	42,35,762	
1960-61 .	28,63,795	(Towards the budget for the financial year 1960).
	69,51,905	(Towards the budget for the financial year 1961)

Trade Commission in Kuwait

673. Shri Raghunath Singh: Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state whether trade commission set up in Kuwait will be given more powers or its status will be changed, considering the achievement of freedom of the country as an International unit?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The Trade Commission was set up to look after trade work and in the commercial interests of the Indian business community in Kuwait. Its status does not require to be changed, though it may be asked to take on additional duties such as passport and visa work for the benefit of the resident Indian community.

Construction of Roads in Sikkim

674. Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of money given to Sikkim for road development;

(b) whether the road construction work has been entrusted to C.P.W.D.; and

(c) if so, how far progress has been made and when it is likely to be completed?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) The total amount spent on road development in Sikkim during 1947-1960 is Rs. 2·22 crores.

(b) Yes, except for one road i.e. North Sikkim Road beyond Singhik, which is being done by the Border Roads Development Board.

(c) Road works under construction are:—

Name of road	Length (miles)	Present progress	Target Date
(*i*) Rishi-Rangli Road .	13	55%	Nov. '61
(*ii*) North Sikkim Road . .	50		
	Road :	90%	March
	Bridge :	30%	'62

Families Settled in Dandakaranya

675. **Shri Surendanath Dwivedy:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of families resettled in Dandakaranya so far;

(b) what is the number of villages and houses that are ready to accommodate refugee families;

(c) whether any villages or houses have been built for local tribal population; and

(d) if so, what is the number of tribal families who have taken advantage of this scheme so far?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) Out of 3,040 displaced families moved to the Dandakaranya area, 2,223 have been moved to the village sites and 2,166 have been allotted agricultural land and homestead plots.

(b) Construction of houses has been taken in hand in 42 villages. 381 houses have been completed and 1,401 are in various stages of construction.

(c) and (d). The setting up of new villages and construction of houses for tribal families is being undertaken by the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. So far about 4,000 acres of land have been placed at the disposal of these two State Governments for allotment to tribals.

Tea Exports

676. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed measures for the promotion of Tea Exports under the Third Five Year Plan include abolition of Assam and Bengal Road Taxes; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken for the removal of these taxes?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri G. D. Birla's visit to U.S.S.R.

677. **Shri Khadilkar:**
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the views expressed by Shri G. D. Birla after his recent visit to the U.S.S.R.;

(b) whether Government are contemplating to hold an Indian industrial and trade fair in Moscow and other big cities of U.S.S.R.;

(c) whether Government propose to explore the possibility of expanding our installed capacity for cotton textiles and modernising or rationalising it with a view to supplying a negotiated demand from the U.S.S.R.; and

(d) whether Government propose to set up some decentralized modern textile mills in the public sector during the Third Five Year Plan?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) Shri Birla went on a private visit to the U.S.S.R. and has not submitted any report to the Government.

(b) Not at present.

(c) There is no proposal for expansion of the installed capacity for cotton textiles or for its modernisation and rationalisation merely with a view to supplying a negotiated demand from the U.S.S.R. However, it is proposed to expand the installed capacity for cotton textiles with a view to meeting the higher targets of production envisaged in the Third Plan.

(d) The Government of India do not propose to set up its own Textile Mills.

Industrial Units in Punjab

678. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the new industrial units in large scale sector established in Punjab during 1960 with their location; and

(b) the names of industrial units in large scale sector which are to be started or started during 1961 with their location?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) & (b). A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table. [*Placed* in *Library. See* No. LT-3069/61].

Bengal Deshi Cotton

679. Dr. Samantsinhar: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of East India Cotton Association has suggested that Government should announce an export quota of Bengal Deshi and 3/4" and below staple cotton; and

(b) what is the decision of the Government on the above suggestion?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Government have been receiving representations from various organisations, including the East India Cotton Association, for export of cotton.

(b) Keeping in view these representations and after studying the supply and demand position, Government have recently announced the release of a further export quota of 60,000 bales comprising 30,000 bales of Bengal Deshi and 30,000 bales of other cottons stapling 3/4" and below.

Export of Consumer and Semi-processed Goods to Russia and East European Countries

680. Shri Hem Barua: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a very large sales potential in Soviet Russia and East European markets for Indian consumer and semi-processed goods; and

(b) if so, whether any survey is made in this direction and in case it is done, what steps Government have taken so far to extend our market to these countries?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) and (b). It is difficult to estimate the sales potential in U.S.S.R. and other East European countries because the entire trade is carried on through State-trading Organisations. Trade delegations from India and these countries meet periodically to review the working of Special Rupee Payment and to explore prospects of further sales and purchases. Some of the Indian consumer and semi-processed goods have been sold to these countries subject to quality and price being acceptable to the buyers. Our commercial Representatives in these countries send us useful information which is kept in mind at the time of trade negotiations.

Press Conference in Dehra Dun

681. Shri P. G. Deb: Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Press Information Bureau arranged a press party from Delhi to go to Dehra Dun in June this year at the headquarters of Oil and Natural Gas Commission;

(b) if so, how much amount was spent; and

(c) whether it is a fact that this press conference has been criticised severely by papers?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) and (b). A press party consisting of representatives of three Indian news agencies, All India Radio and three leading newspapers circulating in the Gujerat region was taken to Dehra Dun on June 11, 1961 to meet the

Minister for Mines and Oil who wanted to announce the news of the oil strike at Kalol, 80 miles from Cambay, a few days earlier, and also to explain with laboratory equipment the technical background thereto. The Oil and Natural Gas Commission provided the road transport both ways, and the Press Information Bureau did not incur **any expenditure.**

(c) In a section of the Press, the trip has been criticised on the ground, firstly, that the announcement was made in Dehra Dun and not in Delhi and, secondly, that a larger and more representative party was not taken to Dehra Dun.

Restoration of Property to Muslim Evacuees

682. **Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria:**
Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:
Shri P. G. Deb:

Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) how much property has been restored to Muslim evacuees in Eastern Zone; and

(b) the details of the same and compensation paid so far?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) and (b). A copy of the letter No. 10(40)/61-M(R)/761, dated the 26th July, 1961 from the Minister for Rehabilitation to Dr. Syed Mahmud, on the subject is laid on the Table. [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 80]

Machine Building Industry

683. **Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria:**
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Maharajkumar Vijaya Ananda:
Shri K. B. Malvia:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Development Council for Machine Building Industry has started its work; and

(b) if so, the details of the same?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Development Council for Machine Building Industry held its First Meeting on the 20th June, 1961 and has constituted:

(i) Four Panels for certain specified industries to go into the question of demand, target of production, measures for the fuller utilisation of the installed capacity etc; and

(ii) One Co-ordination Committee which will determine the nomenclature, broad specifications and quantum of requirements of different items of machinery and semi-finished equipments, such as castings, and forgings which are common to most of the machinery industries.

Orissa Agrico Ltd.

684. **Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have rendered any financial assistance to the "Orissa Agrico Limited", Cuttack for manufacture of agricultural implements;

(b) if so, what amount; and

(c) the progress achieved so far?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). The Government of Orissa have subscribed Rs. 73,000 in the share capital of Orissa Agrico Limited. The company will get assistance from the same Government in the same manner as admissible to Small Scale industrial units.

(c) The Company was registered in March, 1961 and steps are being taken to obtain Machinery on hire-purchase through the National Small Industries Corporation.

Tibetan Refugees

685. { **Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi:** / **Shri P. L. Barupal:**

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Tibetan refugees living in India till 31st July, 1961; and

(b) the total amount of money spent after them upto-date?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) About 33,000 Tibetan refugees have come into India till the end of June, 1961.

(b) The total amount of money spent after them upto the 31st March, 1961, is Rs. 58,31,931. Figures for the months of April to July, 1961, are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as received.

Employees' State Insurance Scheme

686. Shri Kunhan: Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount so far collected under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme till the end of the Second Five Year Plan;

(b) how many hospitals have been constructed under the Scheme;

(c) what is the total amount spent on the Scheme since its inception; and

(d) what is the total number of employees covered by the Scheme State-wise?

The Deputy Minister of Planning and Labour and Employment (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) Rs. 49,40,41,358 (including grants from the Central Government and income from investments etc.).

(b) Five hospitals are under construction and four of them are expected to be completed by January, 1962. Nine annexes with 273 beds have already been constructed in existing hospitals.

(c) Rs. 28,98,12,119 upto 31st March, 1961.

(d)

State	Total No. of employees covered
1. Andhra Pradesh	55,850
2. Assam	4,200
3. Bihar	40,950
4. Gujarat	..
5. Kerala	67,200
6. Madhya Pradesh	75,000
7. Madras	1,81,250
8. Maharashtra	5,80,500
9. Mysore	71,200
10. Orissa	23,000
11. Punjab	53,500
12. Rajasthan	28,450
13. Uttar Pradesh	1,51,200
14. West Bengal	2,85,000
15. Delhi (Union Territory)	61,000
TOTAL	16,78,300

Transfer of C.P.W.D. Workers

687. Shri Tangamani: Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that permanent and semi-permanent workers of the C.P.W.D. who were transferred to the Rajasthan P.W.D. were transferred back to the C.P.W.D. and posted in different Divisions;

(b) if so, whether all such workers have been paid Travelling and Daily Allowances and joining time; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The matter is under consideratioin in consultation with Rajasthan State Government.

Public Sector Projects

688. Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the total estimated expenditure for setting up of the following public sector projects:

(a) the two heavy electrical plants;

(b) the precision instruments projects;

(c) the heavy structural, plate and vessel works;

(d) the heavy compressors and pumps projects;

(e) the phosphorus plant;

(f) the diesel locomotive factory;

(g) the manufacture of people's car project; and

(b) the names of foreign countries financing these public sector projects, project-wise?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table. [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 81].

Sholapur Spinning and Weaving Mills Ltd.

689. Shri Sonavane: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the total Government loans and advances made by the autonomous Credit Corporations to the Sholapur Spinning and Weaving Mills Limited Sholapur the repayments effected by the mill and the balance still outstanding;

(b) the total production capacity of the mill lying idle; and

(c) whether the mill management is in a position to work the mill to the full capacity?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Neither the Industrial Finance Corporation nor the National Industries Development Corporation has given any loan to the Sholapur Mills Limited. However, the then Government of Bombay (now Government of Maharashtra) had given a loan of Rs. 94 lakhs to the mills in 1954. The entire loan is outstanding.

(b) and (c). During the year 1959-60 the company has been working 81,000 spindles and 1,550 looms as against the installed capacity of 95,232 spindles and 2,234 looms. The management of the mill, however, propose to carry-out a programme of modernisation and renovation with a view to working the mill to its full capacity.

लघु उद्योग

६९०. श्री क० भे० मालवीय : क्या **वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या लघु उद्योग विकास आयुक्त राष्ट्रीय लघु उद्योगों तथा लघु उद्योग संस्थाओं द्वारा जारी किये गये आवेदन प्रपत्र तथा बुलेटिन अंग्रेजी में ही प्रकाशित किये जाते है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या इनमें से कुछ हिन्दी में भी प्रकाशित किये गये हैं ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उनके नाम क्या हैं ; और

(घ) यदि हिन्दी में एक भी बुलेटिन प्रकाशित नहीं किया गया है, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं और उन्हें हिन्दी में भी प्रकाशित करने की व्यवस्था कब तक कर दी जायेगी ?

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री मनुभाई शाह) : (क) से (ग). लघु उद्योग विकास आयुक्त तथा लघु उद्योग सेवा संस्थाओं द्वारा लघु उद्योगों पर अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी दोनों में ही पुस्तिकायें प्रकाशित की जा रही हैं। राष्ट्रीय लघु उद्योग निगम लिमिटेड ने भी अनेक बुलेटिन, पर्चे तथा मशीनों का किराया-खरीद की शर्तें हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी में प्रकाशित की है।

(घ) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

Demolition of Boundary Walls in Lodi Colony

691. Shri Ram Garib: Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that boundary walls around the lawns attached to Government quarters in Lodi Colony, New Delhi are being demolished and are being reconstructed again,

(b) if so, what is the expenditure involved; and

(c) what reasons were given for this demolition of walls which appear to be in good condition?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) to (c). No such work is under execution now. However, in March/April, 1960 the boundary walls and gate pillars of some of the 'B' type quarters in the Lodi Colony, New Delhi, were demolished and reconstructed at a cost of about Rs. 40,000. These walls had sunk at several places, gone out of plumb and had been subjected to action by saltpetre due to the high sub-soil water level in the area.

Demolition of Servants' Quarters on Akbar Road, New Delhi

692. Shri Ram Garib: Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any servants' quarters attached to the bungalows on the Akbar Road and areas roundabout in New Delhi were demolished recently;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor, and

(c) whether new quarters have been built in their places and what was the expenditure incurred thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes. The servant quarters attached to bungalow No. 2, Akbar Road, which belongs to the Posts and Telegraphs Department, were demolished.

(b) The quarters had outlived their utility and they were beyond economic repairs.

(c) New quarters are under construction on the site and these are estimated to cost Rs. 18,000.

Electrical and Mechanical Sub-Divisions

693. Shri Tangamani: Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the building divisions in the C.P.W.D. in whose jurisdiction there are electrical or mechanical sub-divisions or sections;

(b) whether there have been any administrative or technical difficulty in the working of such sub-divisions or sections;

(c) if not, whether Government would consider the desirability of abolishing all electrical divisions and attaching the various electrical sub-divisions or sections to building divisions; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) A statement is laid on the Table. [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 82].

(b) No.

(c) and (d). All Electrical Divisions cannot be abolished because such Divisions are required for handling works of large magnitude where higher technical supervision is required. Such higher technical supervision cannot be given by Executive Engineers (Civil) in respect of Electrical Works. Electrical or Mechanical Sub-Divisions for handling minor works are attached to Civil Divisions in cases where it is necessary to ensure co-ordination of electrical and civil works or where attaching them to an Electrical Division would mean remote control on account of the Electrical Division being located far away.

In view of this, the question of attaching all Electrical Sub-Divisions to Building Divisions does not arise.

Electrical and Horticultural Sub-Divisions

694. Shri Tangamani: Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a few years ago an electrical sub-division and a horticultural sub-division were attached to the New Delhi 'A' Division of the C.P.W.D.;

(b) whether it is a fact that after some time the electrical and horticultural sub-divisions were detached from 'A' Division, and were transferred to the jurisdiction of electrical and horticultural divisions respectively; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) to (c). No Electrical or Horticultural Sub-Division was attached to 'A' Division. Some Electrical and Horticultural Section Officers and other staff were however attached to a regular Sub-Division under 'A' Division in connection with the work in the Minto Road area. For administrative convenience, it was decided in 1956 to transfer these electrical and horticultural workers along with the works to the control of the Superintending Engineer, Central Electrical Circle, New Delhi (now called Electrical Circle No. I) and the Director of Horticulture, New Delhi, respectively.

Fertilizer Factory in Gujarat

695. Shri M. B. Thakore: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to establish a fertilizer factory in Gujarat in public sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) and (b). Government of India have agreed in principle to the proposal of the Government of Gujarat to establish a fertilizer factory in that State. Details are being worked out by the State Government and will be examined in due course when an application for licence is received.

Evacuee Land in Delhi

696. Shri B. C. Mullick: Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has laid down any definite policy in auctioning the evacuee land in Delhi; and

(b) what are the details of the policy laid down in auctioning the evacuee land?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) Yes.

(b) All sales and allotments of lands in the Delhi State, whether agricultural or urban, in Government built colonies, evacuee urban lands or lands outside the urban areas, have been stopped with effect from the 16th May, 1961. This ban is not, however, applicable to the land which has been auctioned and bids accepted or in respect of which offers of allotments were communicated and accepted by the transferees, but the issue of transfer documents is pending only for adjustment or recovery of the price. In respect of those lands where the bids have not been confirmed or offers for transfer have not been accepted prior to 16th May, 1961, the land has been offered to the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, for consideration whether he requires it in connection with the Delhi Administration's development projects.

12.04 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON HANDLOOM INDUSTRY

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): Sir,I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Government Resolution No. 4(15)Tex(c)/60, published in the Gazette dated the 5th May, 1961 on Report of the Working Group appointed by the Government to assess the progress made by the Handloom Industry and to make recommendations for its further development. [*Placed in Library, See* No. LT-3061/61].

CENTRAL SILK BOARD (RECRUITMENT) RULES, 1961 AND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HINDUSTAN SALT COMPANY LIMITED

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): Sir, I beg lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers:—

(i) The Central Silk Board (Recruitment) Rules, 1961 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 976 dated the 29th July, 1961, under sub-section (3) of section 13 of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948. [*Placed in Library, See* No. LT-3062/61].

(ii) (a) Annual Report of the Hindustan Salt Company Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1959-60 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon, under sub-section (1) of section 639 of the Companies Act, 1956.

(b) Review by the Government of the working of the above Company. [*Placed in Library, See* No. LT-3063/61].

PUBLIC PREMISES (EVICTION OF UNAUTHORISED OCCUPANTS AMENDMENT RULES, 1961.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply (Dr. B. Gopala Reddi): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Rules, 1961, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 779 dated the 10th June, 1961, under sub-section (3) of section 13 of the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1956. [*Placed in Library, See No.* LT-3064/61].

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (CENTRAL) AMENDMENT RULES, 1961 AND MAIN CONCLUSIONS OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEE ON COAL MINING.

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers:—

(i) The Industrial Disputes (Central) Amendment Rules 1961, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 857 dated the 1st July, 1961, under sub-section (4) of section 38 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. [*Placed in Library, See* No. LT-3065/61].

(ii) Main conclusions of the Eighth Session of the Industrial Committee on Coal Mining held at New Delhi in April, 1961. [*Placed in Library, See* No. LT-3066/61].

12.04-3/4 hrs

THE INCOME-TAX BILL, 1961

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

Shri Jaganatha Rao (Koraput): Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Income-tax and Super-tax.

EVIDENCE

Shri Jaganatha Rao: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the evidence given before the Select Committee on the Income-tax Bill, 1961.

12.05 hrs.

INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL*

The Minister of Home Affairs ((Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): Sir , I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

12.05-1/2 hrs.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL*

The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and to make certain minor amendments in the Two-Member Constituencies (Abolition) Act, 1961.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and to make certain minor amendments in the Two-Member Constituencies (Abolition) Act, 1961."

The Motion was adopted.

Shri A. K. Sen: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

12.06 hrs.

UNION TERRITORIES (STAMP AND COURT FEES LAWS) BILL

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the amendment and repeal of certain laws relating to stamp duties and court-fees as in force in certain Union territories, be taken into consideration."

Without going into the history of these particular Union territories I shall begin with the necessity as to why this Bill has to be brought forward. With the introduction of decimal coinage it has become necessary to specify the rates of stamp and court-fees leviable under the Stamp Act and the Court-Fees Act in terms of decimal coinage. The main effect of the Bill is to bring about a uniformity in the stamp and court-fees in force in Manipur and Tripura along the lines existing now in the adjoining State of Assam where the court-fees and stamp duties have already been decimalised.

Since the coinage has been decimalised there are other factors also that come into the Bill for the sake of creating a unofrmity in the concerned Union territories. The same results as will obtain in Manipur and Tripura will also be obtained in the Union territory of Himachal Pradesh *vis-a-vis* the adjoining State of the Punjab so far as the court-fees are concerned. In the matter of stamp duty, the object may not be fully achieved as stamp duties in the Punjab have increased 50 per cent and to a greater extent since November, 1960. The steep increase in stamp duties in the Punjab will also go over to Himachal Pradesh. But considering the conditions that prevail in Himachal Pradesh we have to bear in mind that it will be too heavy for the people of Himachal Pradesh to bear these increased fees. Therefore we would like to impose on Himachal

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated to 10-8-61.

[Shrimati Alva]

Pradesh the conditions as prevailed before November, 1960. That is why clause 2 of the Bill lays down only the extension of the rates of stamp duty in force in the Punjab immediately before the 29th November, 1960. It would be prevailing up to that.

The Punjab had decimalised its coinage in 1958. Then the proposal will incidentally result in some kind of an increase, because of the rounding-off will be taken into account, in the rates of stamp duties and court-fees. It will also indirectly, by rounding-off, increase the revenue to some extent. In Himachal Pradesh the increase will be just marginal because of the rounding-off of one anna, two annas, three annas and six annas to next higher multiple of 5 nP.

Tripura lies adjoining to Assam. In Assam the stamp duty has been revised from long past. I think it is since 1922 that Assam has been revising its stamp duty and no State law was extended to Tripura. Therefore the stamp duty there will go up by 50 to 100 per cent. In Manipur the position will be the same as in Himachal Pradesh if the stamp duty actually levied, though irregularly, up till now is taken into account; otherwise, it will be as in Tripura after the Bill comes into force.

Now I come to the court-fees. In Himachal Pradesh. Since 1952-53 there has been an increase of 33.1/3 per cent in the Punjab. It will now go over also to Himachal Pradesh and will be reflected there when this law comes into operation in Himachal Pradesh.

In Manipur the prevailing rates are the same as those in Assam in 1950. But Assam has raised its court fees by 33.1/3 per cent on suits of small value, the rate of increase being less on suits of higher value. A similar increase will also ensue in Manipur.

In Tripura the increase in regard to court fees will be 33.1/3 per cent on suits etc. of smaller value but over 80 per cent on suits of a value exceeding Rs. 4 lakhs. The same reason would stand good as in the case of Manipur.

Clause 6 of the Bill seeks to validate the irregular levy so far as stamp duties are concerned. I need not go into the details of the history of these Territories that used to be governed by the Rajas. There were no specific or regular laws there. After their merger the Central laws were made applicable to them. Then again, they did not change to line up with the adjoining States. Under section 2 of the Union Territories (Laws) Act, 1950, an enactment in force in a State may be extended to a Union territory, but the corresponding law in force in the territory cannot be repealed. Hence this Bill. The object is to repeal the law that is existing in the Union territories and to extend the provisions of the present law to these Union territories for the sake of decimalising the coinage and for effecting a little increase in the revenue, because uniformity will have to be there.

The revenue increase will be marginal in some cases, but it will not increase very considerably in any of the Union territories. I do not think I need give the figures. The likely increase in Himachal Pradesh in stamp duty will be marginal. The court fee revenue will go up by Rs. 28,000.

In Manipur the increase in the stamp duty would be marginal. The increase in the court fee will be only to the tune of Rs. 8,000.

In Tripura there would be a 75 per cent increase in stamp duty, on an average, and a 50 per cent increase in court fees, as I have said, on an average.

With these few remarks I commend the Bill to the House.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the amendment and repeal of

certain laws relating to stamp duties and court-fees as in force in certain Union territories, be taken into consideration."

Shri Dasaratha Deb (Tripura): By the Union Territories (Stamp and Court Fees Laws) Bill, 1961 it is being proposed to amend and extend the stamp and court-fee law to Manipur and Tripura and Himachal Pradesh. The objects of the Bill, I find, are two. One is that the rates should be expressed in terms of rupees and naye paise instead of being expressed in terms of rupees, annas and pies. Secondly, it is proposed that the Stamp Duties Act in force at present in Assam should be extended to Tripura and Manipur and the one in force in Punjab at present should be extended to Himachal Pradesh.

As regards the condition of Tripura I should like to say something. The Deputy Minister herself has said that by the extension of this Act the court fee and the stamp duty would increase much higher than the existing rates; the increase may be from 75 to 100 per cent or something like that. This is the intention of the Government in extending this Act to our State. But I must caution the Government before they seek to extend this Act to our State and implement it there. They must keep in view the local conditions of the particular locality. Tripura is a backward place and is isolated from the rest of the country. There are no improved or modern methods of transport or facilities of irrigation and other things. The economic condition of our people is very bad. Without taking all these factors into consideration, if you go on increasing and increasing the taxation—for it is another kind of taxation on the people—I do not know how the people will stand it.

Government have always advanced the argument of ensuring uniformity of rates. When the air freight charges were increased from Calcutta to Agartala in Tripura State and when the question arose, at that time also it was said that there has to be uniformity of the rates and therefore they had to be amended. Here also in the matter of court-fees and stamp duty they want to have some sort of uniformity. But before doing that you must also consider the question of uniformity of the standard of living in all places. Without raising the economic condition of the people of that particular place, you cannot try to bring about uniformity in rates. Otherwise it will be very difficult for our people.

Secondly, we have seen so many difficulties in our part. Recently the Tripura administration advanced a proposal to raise the rate of land revenue and make it four to five times higher than the existing rate. And the procedure prescribed was that anybody who wants to oppose that proposal must file his objection in the court on a 75 naye paise court-fee paper. It involves a huge number of people, because lakhs of people are likely to be affected by the increase of the land revenue rate. If these poor people are to go to the court and pay the court fees, it will be a huge amount. This is not fair. The considered opinion of our people is that the existing rates of land revenue should not in any way be altered, and it should be reduced actually, because their condition is very bad. But the Government did not take into account all these factors. They are only going on increasing the rates and raising the taxation and everything. So I oppose that kind of thing.

At the same time there should be a policy on the part of the Government that at least there should be no increase of any rate or new imposition of court-fees or stamp duties when people have to file cases against certain matters which are likely to affect large numbers of people in that particular State. For instance, I referred to this proposal to increase the rate of land revenue. At least in that case, if any people want to express their opinion or want to

[Shri Dasaratha Deb]

communicate their views to the Government there should not be any restriction that they should approach the Government by paying stamp duties and court-fees and other things.

Here also this increase of 75 or 100 per cent in court-fees or stamp duties should not be there. As such I oppose this increase.

I accept the idea that the rate of duty should be expressed in terms of rupees and naye paise instead of in terms of rupees, annas and pies, but I do not accept this idea of increasing the court-fees and stamp duties. For this reason I oppose this Bill.

Shri L. Achaw Singh (Inner Manipur): Sir, I rise to support this Bill. The Bill is a very simple one. The object of the Bill is quite clear. Under section 2 of the Union Territories Laws Act of 1950, an enactment in force in any State in India can be extended to an Union territory. In the Union territories of Himachal Pradesh, Tripura and Manipur, the laws relating to Stamp duty and Court fees which have been in force in the Punjab and Assam were extended. Since the laws which were in force before 1950 or near about were extended to these Union territories, those laws have become out of date especially after the introduction of the decimal system. The difficulty with the extension of the new Acts prevailing in these States is that the corresponding Acts now in force in these Union territories have to be repealed. That can be done only by Parliament. That is the object of the Bill.

I would like only to refer to clause 6 of the Bill. That is a sort of a mystery to us because we have not been given any details about it. Section 6 is to validate the levy of stamp duty collected during the period between the enforcement of the new Assam Act and 16th April, 1950 on which date the Indian Stamp Act, 1899 as in force in Assam before this date was to be extended. I think this is to legalise an illegal business. Apparently, the rate of stamp duty levied in Manipur during this period was much lower. It may be noted that the Indian Stamp Act was in force in Manipur. But, the Assam schedule of rates was not levied and collected. Thereby a huge loss of revenue might have occurred during this period. The rate of stamp duty levied in Assam during this period was much higher. The duty was levied at a much lower rate in the Union territory of Manipur. In the absence of any information from the hon. Deputy Minister, I think that might have been due to the mistake of some revenue authorities there. It will be proper if we fix the responsibility for the omission or mistake. We should warn the officers concerned so that no such irregularity takes place in the future. Some time back, it appeared in the local papers that a huge loss was also incurred due to the mistake of the local District magistrate or Additional District magistrate. It was reported that a loss of 25 naya paise was incurred on every court petition in Manipur for the last 3 or 4 years. The value of court fee stamp to be affixed is 75 naya paise. The same had been reduced to 50 naya paise in Manipur during this period of 3 or 4 years. The total loss in sales of stamps might run into thousands. The responsibility is that of the District magistrate or the Additional District magistrate. They may be charged with neglect of their duty for the huge loss of Government money. I think we should have a probe into this matter or at least a searching enquiry should be done. I beg to submit that there is much scope for increase in the revenue from this source. During 1959-60, in Manipur, the revenue from stamp duties was Rs. 1·78 lakhs. As a result of the introduction of the decimal system and the consequent extension of the Assam Act now in force, I think we will have increased revenue. But, there are evasions in the valuation of

the different transactions. There are also other means by which people evade the stamp duty. Then, again, there are also many exemptions. We should try to increase the revenue by checking all this evasion and removing some of the exemptions. The same is the case with court fees also. There should be strict observance of the rules regarding payment of court fees. A periodical check by some special investigation would certainly minimise evasion also regarding levy of court fees. Lastly, I would like to submit that there is variation in the rates between one State and another. The object of the Bill is to introduce uniformity in the rate of stamp duty and court fees in the adjoining areas of Manipur, Tribura and Assam. What about the variation in the rates between the different States in India? I think we should try to attain some uniformity in the rates prevailing in the different States in India and if possible, we should fix a ceiling on the rates of stamp duty. With these words, I support this Bill.

Shrimati Alva: Shri Dasaratha Deb talked of the conditions prevailing in the two Union territories and opposed the increase. Shri Dasaratha Deb should know that this question has been discussed at the Tripura Advisory Committee of which he himself is a Member. The proposal was approved by the Committee. Therefore, I do not know how he had advanced this argument again. The revenue in Tripura which now ranges between Rs. 35 and Rs. 40 lakhs is very meagre compared with the total expenditure of several crores, Rs. 6 to 8 crores every year. It is a small increase. I have said that the increase is small comparatively, because, if you see the history of these territories, this should have been done in the past. Now that we are making it uniform, we need not go into the details. Therefore, the increase is small if we take the past conditions and try to make it uniform with the adjoining States. The stamp duty should not be objected to as the territory must make some effort to increase its own domestic revenue.

The other hon. Member who spoke, supported the measure. He spoke about having uniformity in the stamp duty and court fees all over the country. That is a separate issue. Today, we are concerned with this restricted Bill in which we extend to Himachal Pradesh what is prevailing in the Punjab and to Manipur and Tripura what is prevailing in Assam. Assam has made progress and it has increased from time to time from 1922, while the same thing went on in the Union territories. There is no reason why we should not bring a Bill to bring about uniformity when we are thinking of the decimal coinage. The hon. Member spoke about Manipur. In Manipur, the increase in stamp duty is going to be very marginal. I may here convince him with figures. It is going to be very marginal. As far as court fees goes, is is not going to be too much. The increase is going to be 25 per cent on the average. Therefore, the revenue will also be marginal. It will be about Rs. 8,000. That is a very very rough estimate as we have been able to assess. It may be less; it may be a little more. Threfore, in both the cases of the stamp duty and court fees, I do not think there would be any measure of great change or great hardship on the people. I have answered both the Members.

Shri L. Achaw Singh: May I know what the purpose of clause 6 is?. That has not been clear to me.

Shrimati Alva: Clause 6 is to validate the irregular levy already made, so far as stamp duties are concerned.

Shri Dasaratha Deb: The hon. Deputy Minister has said that the total expenditure of Tripura is very high as compared to the revenue income. May I know whether it is the policy of Government to meet this huge expenditure by raising the revenue rates

[Shri Dasaratha Deb]

in our State? For, the existing rate of land revenue is only Rs. 2.50 or Rs. 3 per acre, but Government propose to increase the rate up to Rs. 10 or Rs. 12 per acre. Is that not a big increase?

Shrimati Alva: These have been irregular levies in the past, and that had occurred under some kind of misapprehenssion. We cannot allow that state of affairs to go on now, when we are enacting a law. We have borne in mind the burden that may be cast on the people, and I might say that it is not going to be very heavy, as will be evident from the figures that I have cited after a rough assessment.

Mr. Speaker: This relates only to stamp duty.

The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the amendment and repeal of certain laws relating to stamp duties and court-fees as in force in certain Union Territories be taken into consideration".

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: Since there are no amendments to the clauses, I shall put all the clauses together to vote.

The question is:

"That clauses 1 to 6, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill".

Those in favour may say 'Aye'— Somebody must say 'Aye'. At least the hon. Minister should say 'Aye'.

Shrimati Alva: I am not a Member of this House. Nor is my colleague the Deputy Minister of Labour, Shri Abid Ali, a Member of this House. So, we cannot say 'Aye'.

Mr. Speaker: Then, they must bring in some other Members to say 'Aye'. How can I say 'Ayes' when I do not hear the word 'Aye'?

Dr. Melkote (Raichur): I have said 'Aye'.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Ministers must have a good number of hon. Members to say 'Aye' along with them. Ministers ought not to be left all alone to say 'Aye' themselves. The two Deputy Ministers who are here just now are not Members of this House, and, therefore, they cannot even say 'Aye'.

The question is:

"That clauses 1 to 6, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 1 to 6, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

Shrimati Alva: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed".

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed".

The motion was adopted.

12·22 hrs.

MINIMUM WAGES (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): On behalf of my senior colleague, Shri Nanda, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration".

The present Act as it stands today specifies 31st December, 1959 as the date by which initial fixation of minimum wages must be completed in respect of scheduled employments. That date is long over, and the work of wage fixation under the Act has also been more or less completed. The target date has served its purpose that its retention now has no significance. We, therefore, propose to do away with the time-limit pro-

visions altogether, so as not to hamper wage fixation whenever necessary.

We have also taken this opportunity to include a provision to ensure that fixation or revision of minimum wages under this Act may not conflict with the process of wage fixation by tribunals set up under the Industrial Disputes Act. When such bodies are going into the question of wage fixation in a particular employment or when an award on the subject has been given and is in operation, it is hardly necessary to invoke the machinery of the Minimum Wages Act.

Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration".

Shri Muhammed Elias (Howrah): Before making my comments on the particular amendments which have been brought forward to amend the Minimum Wages Act, I want to say a few words about the working of the Minimum Wages Act in the different industries in the different States of our country.

This is an Act which is meant for the sweated labour who are very brutally exploited and who are not given even the minimum necessities or requirements of the workers of our country. After a very long and painful struggle on the parts of the workers of our country, this Act had been passed by Parliament and by Government in 1948. But, after the passing of this Act, the workers had still to face tremendous difficulty to have the benefit of this Act, because in different industries, the workers have had to launch a tremendous movement or have a tripartite committee set up under the Minimum Wages Act. I have my own bitter experience in this connection.

Recently, before I came to attend this session, there was a big movement of the cinema workers of West Bengal urging the implementation of the notification of the Government of West Bengal under the Minimum Wages Act. These workers, numbering about eleven thousand, and employed in about four hundred cinema-houses did not have any fixed working hours; they did not have any amenities under any of the Acts of our country. Therefore, they were agitating for the setting up of a wage board for many many years. After their struggle, they got a board set up in West Bengal under the Minimum Wages Act. The tripartite committee conducted a thorough enquiry into the industry and into the working condition and living condition of the workers, and ultimately after six months of enquiry, they gave their recommendations fixing the minimum wages of different categories of workers employed in different categories of cinema-houses in West Bengal. The representatives of the employers were also there on this committee along with the employees' representatives. The employees put forward their point of view; the employers also put forward their point of view; and after considering both the points of view, the committee gave their decision. The committee had not accepted the demands which were put forward by the employees' representatives, because the wages they demanded according to the principle accepted at the Fifteenth Labour Conference were not even considered by the committee; the wages recommended by them were far below that.

After the issue of this notification some time in the month of May, 1960, the employers immediately went to the High Court for an injunction. The case was hanging in the High Court for nearly fourteen months, and seeing the hopeless state of affairs, they withdrew their cases in the month of June this year. After the cases were withdrawn, the Government of West Bengal issued another notification to implement the previous notification without any further delay. But the employers made yet another attempt to sabotage the whole notification. They put pressure

[Shri Mohammed Elias]

through an influential person in the Government of West Bengal. They even went to the Acting Chief Minister, Mr. Prafulla Sen for the withdrawal of this notification. But, thanks to the Labour Minister of West Bengal, Mr. Abdus Sattar, and the Labour Department of the Government of West Bengal, the notification was not withdrawn. In spite of the pressure from even a section of his colleagues in the Cabinet, he did not surrender to the employers' demand to withdraw the notification.

Then, the employers took another step to threaten the Government of West Bengal to withdraw the notification, by threatening to close down all the cinema-houses in West Bengal.

They said that they were not going to open the cinema-houses until and unless the notification was withdrawn. Then, the workers had no alternative but to launch a vigorous movement; they had even to go on a hunger strike. Nearly 225 cinema employees went on a hunger strike throughout West Bengal and a big movement started in West Bengal with the help of the other workers and the democratic people. Ultimately, after keeping the cinema-houses closed down for over a week, the employers had to surrender. They signed an agreement before the Chief Labour Commissioner of West Bengal, accepting the notification in principle. They said, 'We shall implement this notification as far as possible'. The Labour Minister, Shri Sattar, also told them that if any cinema owner was in difficulty to implement this notification, he would consider the case sympathetically. But the employers did not pay any heed to what the Labour Minister said. After signing the agreement, to which I was also a party on behalf of the employees, then again went to the Supreme Court and got an injunction for three weeks, thus trying to sabotage the whole notification of the Government of West Bengal which was issued after a thorough inquiry into the conditions of the industry and of the employees. 400 employers in West Bengal employing only 11,000 workers earn more than Rs. 3½ crores a year without spending a single farthing. When the question comes of implementing the Minimum Wages Act, they are not doing it. There is also no other way open to the employees to force the employers to do it because the procedure is very complicated. If an employer violates the decision of the tripartite committee, the workers cannot go directly to the court, and file a suit against him. They have to go first to the inspector of the Labour Department and if he is satisfied that the case is genuine and fit for filing a suit, then he will file a suit in the district court and from that court it can go up to the Supreme Court. Meanwhile, the employers will not implement the agreement. In this way, things are becoming more and more complicated and the workers are actually not getting the benefit.

I can cite many examples. Tailors in West Bengal number more than 3 lakhs. They have also been agitating for setting up a tripartite committee under the Act. They do not get even Re. 1 per day even though they work 13 and 14 hours a day. No working hours have been fixed for them. They do not have fixed minimum wages. They submitted a petition signed by more than 10,000 tailors sometime in 1958 to the Prime Minister through me; I myself handed over the petition to the hon. Prime Miniser. He was kind enough to send it to the Government of West Bengal. The Government of West Bengal in the Labour Department conducted an inquiry for nearly two years and gave their finding that the condition of the tailors is really very bad and some sort of relief should be given to them as otherwise they could not live on such meagre income. But up till now no tripartite committee has been set up for fixing minimum wages for the workers employed in the tailoring industry.

Similar is the condition of more than a million workers in shop establishments. In their case, there has been some sort of fixation of working hours. But they are not getting the minimum wages. No cammittee has yet been set up to fix minimum wages for the millions of workers who are employed in shop establishments.

The same is the case in the mining industry where the workers have been agitating for the setting up of a minimum wage committee under the Minimum Wages Act, but this demand has not been accepted by Government. Other than the coal mine workers, the workers in the other mines get very meagre wages after their hard work in mines. This is the position.

In the *biri* industry and in the transport industry, thousands of workers are employed. The minimum wages committees have been their verdict fixing the mninimum wages. But up till now, in many cases, the decision of the tripartite committees under the Act has not been accepted by the employers. There are many such industries—like the plastic industry where this is the position, but as time is very short, I am not mentioning them.

In view of what I have said, the amendments which are being brought here under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, will be more complicated. First of all, take the proposed section 2A where it says that when there is a dispute pending before a tribunal or a court, in the whole industry there will be no minimum wage committee. It would render the position more complicated if the Act is amended in this manner. Then there is the question of time bar. It is true that if the time has elapsed, there will be no minimum wage committee. That is why the amendment proposes to withdraw the time-bar. It is good, but there must be some sort of time-limit. Otherwise, how long will the workers have to wait for their minimum wages?

In the light of these observations, I do not agree with the hon. Minister when he comes forward to amend the Act in this way. Amendments to the Act must be brought forward by which workers can get the benefit of this Act. Otherwise, there will be no meaning in having the Minimum Wages Act; the workers will not get benefits from the Act. With these words, I make an appeal to the Minister not to amend the Minimum Wages Act in this way.

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal (Uluberia): Before I discuss this amending Bill, I would like to make some observations on the working of the Minimum Wages Act, because there are Committees in all States and they sometimes recommended several industries to be brought within the purview of this Act. But we do not know how they fix the minimum wages. There has been discussion of this aspect in several tribunals and courts including the Supreme Court. It is generally accepted by all of them that the minimum wage should be fixed on the basis of the minimum needs of the workers. But we have started from the wrong end. Minimum wage is fixed on the capacity of the industry concerned to pay, irrespective of the expenses incurred by the workers. So naturally we find in some industries that the minimum wages are less than even the prevailing market rates. That is why the committee which fixes the minimum wages has got no realistic basis for fixing the same.

In Even in the latest case in the Supreme Court—the Burmah-Shell Refineries *vs.* their employees—on the question of minimum wages, the Court has observed that in a Welfare State it is very difficult to draw any distinction between a living wage, fair wage and minimum wage. Still it is admitted by everybody that an industry which is not able to pay the minimum wage is not entitled to exist, to run its business because the industry should pay at least the minimum wage required by the workers and that wage should be fixed on the basis of the minimum requirements of the workers.

[Shri Aurobindo Ghosal]

Now it is a fact that the Government have not been able to work out the cost of living index on an all-India basis. But they have done it on a regional basis. The minimum wages do not even conform to that formula of the cost of living index; we find that it is below that figure.

It has been already stated that even after minimum wages are fixed, the employers do not accept them. Therefore, as stated by my hon. friend, Shri Muhammed Elias, there has been a struggle between the cinema workers and the employers as a result of which a larke number of workers had to go on a hunger strike. The State Government kept mum over the issue. Besides expressing their view that the industry should come within the purview of the Minimum Wages Act, they would not do anything unless the employers and workers came to a settlement. They could do nothing, they were helpless, though the minimum wages had been fixed in the case of the cinema workers. Now, the cinema technicians are going to fight for the fixation of minimum wages. This trouble is going on. So, sufficient power should be given to the State Government for implementing the minimum wages, particularly because last time we found the State Government was powerless when the Employers refused to implement the Government notification in the case of cinema workers.

We find that once the minimum wage is fixed, it is very difficult to get it revised. Normally, after a period of three years, it can be revised, but rarely has it been found that the minimum wage has been revised except on the threat of the trade unions. Government, *suo motu*, should revise the minimum wages when the period is over, but actually Government does not move unless the workers get impatient.

In the case of agricultural labourers, the Minimum Wages Act is practically not being implemented, and they do not get any help from this Act. Even if the minimum wages are fixed, it is not implemented because there is no strong organisation of agricultural labourers. But if there is no organisation, Government should of their own look into their condition and see that the minimum wages are received by them.

By the first amendment in the Bill, they want to delete the time-limit, but there are many industries where still the fixation of minimum wages is necessary. Therefore, I do not think that this deletion of the time-limit will be beneficial to the workers who have still to come under the purview of this Act.

I welcome the second amendment proposed in the Bill, but I find the wage board has not been included in this. The substance of the amendment is that if a dispute is pending before an industrial tribunal or a court, no minimum wages should be fixed. But disputes may be pending before wage boards, because from our experience we find that the wages fixd by the Minimum Wages Committees are much below the wages fixed by the tribunals or wage boards. So, I would like the wage boards to be included in the amendment.

Shri Indrajit Gupta (Calcutta-South West). The amending Bill which has been brought forward on behalf of the Government has proved to be rather disappointing, because the two amendments which are proposed here are, both of them, essentially of a negative type. We have always been pressing for further amendments of the Minimum Wages Act in a positive direction, so that constant improvement of the Act could be brought about, since it is, actually speaking, the only minimum wages legislation which exists in this country. But from the amendments proposed we find that all that is being done is to take away something which was there, and nothing is being added in a positive direction to improve the working of the Act by assimilating the experience that we have had of the working of the Act to suggest certain improvements in that direction.

The first amendment aims at total removal of any time-limit for the fixation of these minimum wages. If I may say so, this is a confession of failure on Government's part, nothing else, because everybody knows what happened to the time-limits which were fixed in the original Act, and which had to be extended on more than one occasion by further amnedments brought before this House. Because the Central Government was not in a position or did not care to exert sufficient pressure upon the various State Governments to fix the minimum wages for the scheduled occupations within time-limit which had been specified in the Act, we were faced with this unedifying spectacle of the Government having to come before this House time and again in order to get the time-limit extended.

Shri Abid Ali: What to do?

Shri Indrajit Gupta: I agree, but the point is this a confession of failure. That is what am saying.

Shri Abid Ali: It is a confession of success, substantially.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Therefore, now the simple remedy is sought of removing the time-limit altogether, and saying that the wages should be fixed within the shortest possible time.

If the time-limit stipulated in an Act virtually becomes a dead letter, I admit there is no point keeping a time-limit like that. Certainly it does not help anybody to go on extending the time-limit, knowing all the time in your own mind that nothing will happen after that also. The result was that those interested in seeing that minimum rates of wages were not fixed,—I do not mean the Government—the employers or may be some other people in various regions or States who are not interested in speedy fixation of minimum wages, were encouraged to take this view that if they could somehow or other manage to delay matters till the next time-limit expired, after that they would be relieved of the responsibility of fixing the minimum wages. That is what went on happening once, twice, thrice. And the Central Government was not in a position, or did not have adequate power, or did not press the matter hard enough, to see that these time-limits were properly observed. Therefore, I say it is a confession of failure.

I do not think it makes much difference, if that experience counts for anything, whether you have a time-limit on paper or not, apparently that is not going to be the deciding factor, but I would say one thing, that as far as employments in Schedule No. 2 are concerned,—it refers mainly to agricultural labour—they cannot be put on the same basis as the employments in Schedule No. 1. Government has stated in its Statement of Objects and Reasons that by and large minimum rates of wages have already been fixed for the vast majority of workers, and therefore the main question now is not fixation of minimum wages but extension of the Schedule. But I would submit that as regards Schedule No. 2, the position is just the contrary. I would say that the majority of agricultural labour has not been covered by any minimum wage rate fixation so far. For instance, I will take a State like Uttar Pradesh, the biggest State in our country. So far as I know, in no part of U. P. is the minimum wage for agricultural labour being fixed under this Act. The same is the case in the majority of States. There may be one or two States where something has been done either on a State basis or in a particular region in a State but by and large it has not been implemented. So, instead of giving up the idea of having a time-limit for all the occupations concerned at least in respect of agricultural labour, who are the most down-trodden, and the most exploited and the most in need of protection—they had not even been properly organised associations or unions like the ones that workers have in respect of some industries, some serious attempt should be made to maintain the time-limit and try to the

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

State Governments fix those wage rates and enforce them. I do not know how the agricultural labour is going to be benefited under this Act, if even this is removed.

13 hrs.

The second amendment, I am afraid, is to be opposed by us. I do not quarrel with the idea. If they want that if there is a tribunal or some sort of a wage fixation body like that already sitting or an award has been made and is in force regarding the wages to be paid, then the matter of fixing wages under this Act may be held up for the time being, it is a logical position which could be understood. But if one looks at the wording of this amendment, I am afraid it has the most dangerous implications. It may defeat the very purpose of the Act itself. It says here:

> "Where in respect of an industrial dispute relating to the rates of wages payable to any of the employees employed in a scheduled employment, any proceeding is pending before a Tribunal.... or before any like authority under any other law for the time being in force....."

Do these words 'industrial dispute relating to the rates of wages payable' mean that the dispute relates to the quantum of the minimum? Not at all. The dispute relating to the rates of wages may mean anything. For instance, there may be a disputes let us say, pending as to what should be the ratio of wages between male labour and female labour or female labour and child labour in some of the occupations not the question of what the minimum should be. With the existing minimum mantained, a dispute may arise whether some category should get more or not, or whether in a particular place the wages which have been fixed earlier have been properly computed or not. There may be a dispute as to whether the rates of wages which have been fixed have been paid properly or there had been some mistake in calculating wages. There may also be, according to this amendment, a dispute before the payment of wages court. These are not disputes which necessarily bring into question the actual minimum calculated. Suppose there is a dispute of this type pending somewhere. Why should a bar be placed on people fixing or revising the minimum wage for that occupation? The dispute may not be on that point. It may be on some lesser point and it may be before the payment of wages court. In that amendment it says further:

> ".....where such proceeding or award relates to the rates of wages payable to all the employees in the scheduled employment, no minimum rates of wages shall be fixed or revised in respect of that employment during the said period."

The same question arises. What is the meaning of a dispute relating to the rates of wages payable? If it relates to the minimum quantum, I could understand it. But the definition here and the wording here are so broad enough to allow any employer or any other authority to put obstacles. I suggest that this wording is anomalous. It leaves a lacuna here which means that any dispute can be interpreted as being relatable to the rates of wages payable—not necessarily the minimum. I do not know whether it is carelessly worded or there is some other intention behind it and I would like to have a clarification from the hon. Deputy Minister. When we are thinking of bringing in such a limited amendment, he should see that at least the wording is not such as to be open to different interpretations and lacunae are not allowed to creep in which would defeat the very purpose of this Act. An amendment of this type can be valid only where the actual question is whether the minimum fixed should be raised or not. Where that issue is pending before a national tribunal or where an award is in force on that question, there, I quite understand the point; there is no good in a parallel

and simultaneous process of any minimum wage committee coming into force. But that is not the clear meaning of this amendment at all.

We are also disappointed in the sense that there are no suggestions for any positive improvement in the working of this Act at all. My colleague, Shri Elias, has given a number of examples and I do not want to multiply them by showing how in the daily working of this Act, many employers make a concerted attempt to bypass the provisions of this Act, not only in respect of the payment of the minimum wages fixed but also in respect of the other provisions like the proper maintenance of the records, registers, and so on and so forth. What is the deterrent for all that? Section 22 of the Act lays down the penalty for an employer who contravenes the provisions of this Act as being a fine not exceeding Rs. 500. I submit that if I were an employer I would seriously consider this question whether it is worthwhile to implement the wages laid down and go through all the trouble of making records and registers and so on or whether it is worthwhile to go on repeatedly contravening the provisions of the Act and taking the risk of each time paying a fine, at the most, of Rs. 500. If I implement the provisions of the Act, it may cost a good bit more than Rs. 500. This is no deterrent. The trade unions have been agitating that the penalty and deterrent clauses of this Act which will act as some sort of a compulsion on the employers to abide by the provisions of the Act should be tightened up and made more rigorous. The penalties prescribed here are absolutely nominal and no employer is bothered about them at all. He can easily afford to pay the fine rather than pay the minimum wages. Unfortunately, no amendment to improve this position has been brought forward.

Then there is the most basic question of all. I had the opportunity to to serve for quite a long time on one of these minimum wage fixation committees which was dealing with the Central Government undertakings. It was my experience in the working of that committee that the most frustrating thing that one can come up against is the deadlock on the method or basis or the lack of basis for actual fixation of the minimum wages. Machinery is provided no doubt under the Act. To that extent we welcome it. But the point is whether we have or we have not reached a new stage? This Act is now 12-13 years old. Surely, with the all-round progress that is being made in the concept of the working class standards and labour relations and all that, is it not time for the Government to consider seriously that we have come to a stage now where some sort of broad principles or basis or directives at least should be incorporated in the Act to assist these wage fixation committees in their work? I can tell you from my own experience what is happening. In the committee, how do we set about the fixation of the minimum wage? There was no principle or basis. The only thing was to find out what the local market rate of labour was. That means to say, labour is considered a commodity like cloth, food, sugar or rice that is being sold in the market. There is this huge pool of unemployed people in our country unfortunately and they are selling their labour power in the market. So, we were to find out from the demand and supply position as to what is the prevailing market rate and what is the cheapest rate at which you can get this particular category of labour and then fix the rate, as the minimum rate. I am referring to these unskilled, sweated type of occupations: because after all, under Schedule I, some occupations come in under that definition which cannot be called sweated, since there are people who are much more highly paid and the Act was not originally made for their protection. I am only talking of the people whom we are seeking to protect. So, the result is, that you will find that in most of these occupations, the wages are generally fixed more or less at a standard level at 12 annas for women or

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at Re. 1 or Rs. 1·25 per day, all inclusive, and it never goes above that. It cannot, because there is no guiding directive or principle.

Therefore, I feel that these revised rates are also starvation wages. In what sense are they minimum wages? I think that since this Act was passed in 1948, we have gone quite a long way, and the Deputy Minister knows it very well. In the consideration of this question we have got before us a newly agreed tripartite decision concerning what we consider to be a desirable minimum wage, the need based norm, for minimum wages. That was not there in 1948, but by the time another decade had passed the Government employees and labour did advance forward to a stage where we thought it necessary at the 15th Indian Labour Conference to calculate some sort of broad norm so that a worker and his family and dependants in the course of a month may get what they require—these minimum commodities to keep themselves alive—so much of foodgrains, so much of cloth, so much of floor space, namely, housing, so much of other things, etc. It should be need-based. If you give him less than this, it is not possible for him to keep alive.

I am not suggesting here that some legislation should be brought to the effect that in all these occupations which have come under the Minimum Wages Act, that norm of the 15th Labour Conference should be mechanically applied; that after it is worked out in its cash equivalent, it should be made binding, by law, on the employers. I am not saying that, because we have seen that that norm suggested by the 15th Indian Labour Conference works out at varying figures, ranging from Rs. 125 to Rs. 175 a month. Let alone these types of scattered, sweated industries; there are even well-established, large-scale, organised industries whose employers, night and day, are crying that it is impossible for them even to pay the minimum norm arrived at, at the 15th Indian Labour Conference. Even an industry like the cotton textile industry says that it is not able to afford to pay that much. And certainly, a small beedi employer or a small employer of some other small concern like that cannot be asked tomorrow to pay his workers Rs. 125 or Rs. 150 per mensem. But what I am saying is that we have come to a stage where some sort of directive principles or goal or ideal which we aim at should at least be brought before the minimum wage fixation bodies. If the resolution passed at the 15th Indian Labour Conference is again studied by the Ministry, it will be seen that there was a recommendation to the effect that this agreed norm should be forwarded as a recommendation or a directive or a guiding principle to all tribunals and wage fixation bodies and similar bodies in the country which are concerned with this type of work, to guide them.

My experience in the minimum wage fixation committee is this. Our deliberations and discussions have no relation whatsoever to any such minimum, need-based, norm. The question of necessity of the workers is never taken into consideration. It is only a question of labour demand and supply in the labour market and the cheapest available rate at which it is possible to get an unemployed man to do the work. There are also anomalies coming in. That particular committee of mine was dealing with Central Government undertakings. Sometimes when we were thinking of fixing a particular figure as the minimum wage, objections came from the State Governments saying that if within the boundaries of the same State the workers employed in the Central Government undertakings are paid Re. 1·50 while the State Government, in similar undertakings pays only Re. 1·25, then all the workers will go away to the Central Government undertakings and they would not be able to get any worker. On these objections from the State Governments, the committee

was again more or less forced by pressure of circumstances to revise its earlier decision or recommendation and reduce the rate from Rs. 1-6-0 to Rs. 1-4-0. So, the determining factors have got nothing to do, at present, with the actual concept of a minimum wage as a conception, as a norm, satisfying the workers' bare physical necessities. I would therefore say that the biggest weakness of this minimum wage legislation is that there is no machinery which has been set up.....

Mr. Speaker: Has it no relation to the capacity to pay at all?

Shri Indrajit Gupta: The capacity of the worker to work without a certain minimum is never taken into consideration. That is my whole point and that is my objection. Now that we have reached a stage where there has been an agreed decision about what the minimum need-based norm should be at least in terms of commodities like foodgrains and also housing, etc., for the purposes of these industries in schedule No. 1 and 2 let the Government come forward and work out some norm. Let it at least be a lower norm. Why can't they fix a lower norm if the norm is too high for these people? Let it be a bit lower than what is recommended at the 15th Indian Labour Conference. But let there be a norm which should act as a guide or directive for these bodies. The purpose of the minimum wage legislation is not simply to set up a chain of wage fixation and wage revising bodies and to leave it entirely to the gentlemen who are there to be guided by any factors which they may choose to be guided by.

Mr. Speaker: Are there no general principles evolved which ought to regulate these things?

Shri Indrajit Gupta: There are no general principles except the law of supply and demand. When the purpose of the Act is to afford protection those sections which are most in need of protection, which are not organised which are sweated and exploited, and if we want a really progressive type of legislation, that gap might be filled up and some sort of an agreed norm and directive principle must be embodied in the Minimum Wages Act. Otherwise no purpose will be served and we would not be able to afford any real protection. Even this limited thing is being by-passed by the employers because they know they can get away with a fine of Rs. 500; so they think why should they pay more to the workers.

These, Sir, are my submissions. As far as the amendments are concerned, I would just like to repeat my suggestion. In respect of the first amendment, I would suggest that the time-limit should be maintained at least in respect of agricultural labour, which is the occupation under schedule II. The Statement of Objects and Reasons says that they are withdrawing the time-limit because the bulk of the occupations have already been covered by the minimum wages. But that certainly does not apply to agricultural labour. In this case, the time-limit should be maintaintd and the Government should make every effort to see that it is enforced.

As far as the second amendment is concerned, I would request the Minister to see that careful thought is devoted to the wording of the amendment and that it does not provide loopholes whereby any footling thing which an employer may raise or may get referred to a tribunal or a court may hold up indefinitely the whole machinery of fixation and revision of minimum rates of wages. That would defeat the very purpose of the amendment which the Government seek to make.

Shri Naushir Bharucha (East Khandesh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I have very carefully listened to the arguments advanced by Shri Gupta and I fully agree with him on many points. I would like to make some concrete suggestion in respect of the amendment which the hon. Deputy Labour Minister proposes to move in this House. The argument is advanced by Government that where an industrial dispute is *sub judice* and where an authority is already sitting in judgment, then

[Shri Naushir Bharucha]

why should any other authority simultaneously fix up a minimum wage? If there is conflict between the decisions of the two authorities, then whose decision is to prevail?

My submission is that that type of reasoning on which the amendment of the hon. Deputy Minister is based is totally wrong. It is not only in this type of legislation that we are thinking of fixing up a minimum. Take, for example, the rent control legislation in Bombay. There also the standard rent is to be fixed by the court. But often it takes several years before the standard rent is fixed. What happens in the meantime? Is it that the tenant does not pay any rent or the landlord gets nothing? The machinery devised there is that pending the final decision by the court of the standard rent, an interim rent is fixed. I really fail to see why the hon. Deputy Minister does not employ the same method, *viz.*, that it should be open to a wage fixation body to fix an interim wage, which will be an interim minimum wage until that wage is revised by a higher tribunal.

As Shri Gupta pointed out, the amendment as it has been worded, is so wide that it is possible for employers in any particular industry to engineer industrial disputes, take them before one authority, then go on appeal and so on until a period of 5 or 6 years elpases. In the meantime the machinery for the fixation of minimum wages is completely stagnant. When we have had this minimum wage legislation for nearly 13 or 14 years with us, is it not high time that we devised some sort of machinery, so that the fixation of minimum wage is not interrupted just because some industrial dispute in that industry happens to be *sub judice*?

I submit that ways can be found. What is the objection in fixing an interim minimum wage? Let the normal machinery work and function. If the decision goes contrary, let the higher tribunal's decision pervail. That does not matter. But on the basis of the amendment that he has proposed what actually happens is, if later on it is found that a higher minimum wage than what is actually being paid is fixed by the tribunal, in the meantime the employees go out and retrospective effect cannot be given, with the result that the employees lose the excess due to them. Let not the machinery for fixing minimum wages be stagnated just because there happens to be a dispute pending. The employer always engineer a dispute and keep the pot boiling by taking it before the national tribunal or any other court, with the result that nothing could be done in the matter of fixing minimum wages.

I am not quite sure of the words in the amendment:

> "....any proceeding is pending before a Tribunal or National Tribunal under the Industrial Disputes Act or before any like authority under any other law for the time being in force or an award made by any Tribunal...."

Will it include also an appeal before the Supreme Court? Though the wording is 'like authority', still I think that is wide enough to include even that, with the result that when an appeal is taken right up to the Supreme Court, nohing can be done in the matter of minimum wages for that industry. I think it is a highly retrograde amendment and I request the hon.. Deputy Minister to think of the matter, even if the Bill is postponed for a day or two.

With regard to the time-limit for wage fixation, the Statement of Objects and Reasons says:

> "The urgency originally felt for completing the initial wage-fixtion within a specified date no longer

> exists as the bulk of wage-fixation work has already been completed and the question now is one of extending the coverage of the Act to more and more employments."

I submit that it is a very poor excuse to say that because bulk of the work is completed, with regard to the rest, there is no hurry. It is not only a question of Government failure; it is a question of invitation to the employers to bring pressure on the Government that nothing further should be done by way of extension of this Act to other industries.

With regard to the wider issue which Shri Gupta raised though it has no bearing on this Bill immediately, still I submit that since we are considering amendments to the Minimum Wages Act, I do not see any reason why this aspect of the question should not be fully explored. It is no use fixing up a machinery and not providing it the criteria or guiding principles on which minimum wages should be fixed. It has been our experience that in many of the industries, the minimum wages fixed are far below the prevailing levels. It is true, as Shri Gupta said, that the only criterion that we adopt is, what is the market rate of labour. Even that criterion is not adopted for the simple reason that the prevailing market rate in many industries is higher than the minimum wages fixed. I, therefore, submit that if this Act is to be amended, first the basic question should be tackled, *viz.*, what are the guiding principles which will be set before the wage fixing machinery, because it is no use creating a machinery, and not providing the guiding principles.

I do not agree with Shri Gupta that need-based wage should be taken as the basic wage. Perhaps, in the present economy, this may not be quite feasible. I agree that the capacity of the employer must also be taken into consideration. But having accepted this, are there no other governing principles which can be laid down as part of the Act itself? It is being done in many other matters. Take the Land Acquisition Act, for instance. The governing principles as to how the market value of the land is fixed, etc. are put down in the Act itself. Similarly some sort of guiding principles should be incorporated in this legislation inself, leaving to the machinery some latitude within which it can adjust the minimum wage.

I submit that as the Bill stands at present, it is retrograde and I certainly oppose it.

Shri S. M. Benerjee (Kanpur): Sir, I have carefully read the contents of the Bill. When I read the Statement of Objects and Reasons, I found that it was one of the failures of the Government, because they could not get it implemented by the employers. A particular date was fixed—31st December 1959—and it is clearly stated:

> ". . . and also in the case of employments added to the Schedule by a notification issued under Section 27, the minimum rates of wages shall be fixed before the expiry of one year from the date of the final notification under that section. The urgency originally felt for completing the initial wage-fixation within a specified period no longer exists as the bulk of wage-fixation work has already been completed and the question now is one of "extending the coverage of the Act to more and more employments in both the Central and State spheres."

I ask whether a survey has been made in various industries as to whether this minimum wage is actually being paid. I have experience of so many industries where after repeated agitation and representation, the minimum wage was fixed.

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

I have been telling in this House repeatedly about the tannery workers of Kanpur. In their case, after the visit of the hon. Minister, the Deputy Labour Minister and high officers of the Labour Department, a minimum wage was fixed at Rs. 1·74 naye paise. Even that rate is not being given in many tanneries in Kanpur. There are other industries also. If we accept this Bill as it is, then those industries will never fix a minimum wage.

My hon. friend Shri Indrajit Gupta has very ably said in this House that the maximum suffering will be in the case of the agricultural labour. They have no capacity. They will immediately say that they have no capacity to pay and on that ground it will not be implemented at all.

Now, Sir a question arises as to what should be the minimum wage. It has been stated by my hon. friends Shri Muhammed Elias, Shri Indrajit Gupta and also Shri Bharucha that this has to be decided. Sir, the entire struggle of the Central Government employees and the unfortunate strike was only due to one thing, that the minimum wage as was recommended or suggested by the 15th Labour Conference was not implemented. That was the main point on which the employees wanted to fight. When this particular recommendation was before us, every section of trade union workers, whether belonging to this side or that side, hailed it because it was unanimous in nature. But what was done by the Pay Commission? They never implemented it. And, Sir, the height of the joke is that the Pay Commission recommended what should be the minimum requirements. In that connection, Sir, you will be surprised to know, one of the economists—I do not know who it was I think it was Dr. Patwardhan—recommended that an employee in Delhi can get 32 ounces of commodities—15 oz. of rice and wheat or wheat, 3 oz. pulses, 6 oz. green vegetables, 4 oz. milk, 1½ oz. ghee or butter, 1¼ oz. gur or sugar and 1 oz. of groundnut—at 56 naye paise or 9 annas. Sir, everybody is in Delhi including yourself. We have yet to see a shop in Delhi where we can get these 32 ounces of commodities for 56 naye paise.

Mr. Speaker: When was it fixed?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I do not know. The answer is not coming forward from either the Finance Minister or the Lobour Minister. With all my respects to the Prime Minister. I must say that nobody answers this point. I think it is a misprint, and for 56 old paisa they have printed it as naye paise. Can you get so many commodities for 56 naye paise? If I actualy go to any shop either in the rural areas or in the urban area with this list saying that the Pay Commission has prescribed it and ask the shopkeeper to give me those commodities and accept 9 annas, people will simply laugh at it.

Mr. Speaker: That is the basic wage.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: No, Sir, it was suggested as the minimum requirement and it was calculated to cost only 56 naye paise.

Mr. Speaker: Is there no provision in the Act for a sliding scale to be adopted in case there is an increase in the cost of living?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Not in respect of minimum wages. Most of the minimum wages are without dearness allowance. In their cases dearness allowance is not paid at all. There is discrimination in that respect.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: It is not linked to price of living index.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Not at all. Here in Delhi, after Delhi has been declared as an 'A' class city every Central Government employee will

get a minimum enhancement in emoluments of Rs. 7-8-0 whereas those people who are covered under the Minimum Wages Act, who get Rs. 38, Rs. 40 or Rs. 45, whatever the case may be, they are not getting anything. You can imagine, Sir, two offices in Delhi, where the employees are benefitd by a minimum rise of Rs. 7-8-0 whereas in the other offices the employees do not get anything.

Mr. Speaker: It is stated in the Act that every five years it requires revision.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: It may be revised. I doubt whether it has been revised upwards. The hon. Deputy Minister may kindly make a stateement here so that we may also know.

Shri Abid Ali: These are pay scales. There are revisions from time to time both in the central sphere and in some States also; never it has been downward, always it has been done upwards.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I can understand that some industries have no capacity to pay. But I want to know whether the capacity has been properly assessed. My feeling is that it has not been assessed in the case of those industries who are making fabulous profits.

Shri Abid Ali: I would like to remind the hon. Member that in all these committees about fixation of minimum wages and revision of minimum wages there are workers' representatives and up to this time all the decisions have been unanimous.

Mr. Speaker: There is one-third representation of workers, one-third employers and one-third independents

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I know that representatives of the workers are there. I do not deny that. But the whole point is that no documents are produced. Even when cases are taken up in the Supreme Court the employees' side is asked whether certain documents can be produced to judge, whether the employer has the capacity to pay. We ask whether those documents can be seen by us. We do not see the documents. We do not know what profits they are making. We are given certain figures either through the governmental agency or the employers themselves. So we do not know the exact position.

My submission is that this particular point should be decided as to what should be the minimum wage. One decision was taken by the 15th Labour Conference. Unfortunately, that decision was also flouted by the Pay Commission. We do not know today what is the minimum requirement, what is the minimum wage that should be given to an ordinary worker.

Coming to the provisions contained in this Bill, if you do not think that the date is now necessary, at least let the date remain in respect of agricultural labour and certain industrial labourers who are not yet covered or who are going to be covered by the Act; otherwise it will be ignored by their employers.

I fully support the argument advanced by my hon. friend Shri Indrajit Gupta about this amendment. Real michief will be done by the emloyers. The provision here says:

> "Where in respect of an industrial dispute relating to the rates of wages payable...."

It does not say whether it relates to the minimum wage or to any other wage. Supposing there is a dispute going on between the employees of a particular concern or a particular industry, what is the definition of wages that is applicable? If it pertains to the minimum wage I can understand that. We do not want both things. If it is referred to a national tribunal or to a tribunal I can understand that we cannot have it, because the matter

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becomes sub judice. What about the other wages? It says here:

> "any proceeding is pending before a Tribunal or National Tribunal under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 or before any like authority under any other law for the time being in force...."

What is that? It should be defined properly; otherwise, instead of giving relief to the workers or giving them any concession or advantage of this particular Bill, this provision will be used against them.

My submission, therefore, is that before this Bill is passed these two points should be carefully conidered, and the hon. Deputy Minister should give us an idea as to what should be the minimum wage and whether 32 ounces of commodities, which I have already mentioned, can be had for 56 naye paise in Delhi or anywhere else in the country. I can throw this challenge. Nobody can have 32 ounces of commodities for 56 naye paise. It is very unrealistic, it is imaginery, it is somebody's brain-wave which has unfortunately worked and which has affected the entire working people of this country.

श्री राम सिंह भाई वर्मा। (निमाड़) अध्यक्ष महोदय, सदन में यह जो मिनिमम वेजेज (अमेंडमेंन्ट) बिल पेश किया गया है उस पर मैं अपने कुछ विचार प्रकट करना चाहता हूं।

इस अमेंडिंग बिल के अन्दर कोई खास बात नहीं कही गई है और जो कहा गया है वह यह कहा गया है कि मिनिमम वेज जो कायम किया जाय उस की कोई टाइम लिमिट नहीं बल्कि राज्य सरकारें इस के लिये फ्री हैं कि वह किसी भी टाइम में कितने भी अर्से के बाद कहीं भी मिनिमम वेज कायम करें। श्रीमन्, मिनिमम वेज ऐक्ट १९४८ के अन्दर बना था लेकिन १९४८ के पहले कुछ उद्योग ऐसे थे कि जिन में मिनिमम वेज कायम हो चुका था। बम्बई, अहमदाबाद और इंदौर जैसे सैंटर्स में टैक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री के अन्दर मिनिमम वेज कायम हो चुका था और उस के बाद मिनिमम वेज एक्ट बना और उस के अन्दर टाइम लिमिट ठहरा दी गई कि अमुक अमुक उद्योग के अन्दर इतने समय के अन्दर मिनिमम वेज कायम हो जाना चाहिये। उस टाइम लिमिट को भी समय समय पर बदला गया, लेकिन शिड्यूल में जो उद्योग रखे गये थे, उन में केन्द्रीय शासन राज्य शासनों से मिनिमम वेज निश्चित नहीं करा पाया। इस से तो यही लगता है कि जहां पर लड़ाई की पूरी तैयार होती है और मजदूर अपने अधिकारों के लिये लड़ने के लिये तैयार होते हैं, वहां तो सरकार भी विचार करती है, लेकिन जो सीधे-सादे और दबे हुए और बहुत अधिक गरीब श्रमिक होते हैं, उन की सुनने के लिये कोई तैयार नहीं होता।

देखने में यह आया है कि जहां पहले मिनिमम वेज कायम हुए, उन को समय समय पर रिवाइज भी किया गया। इतना ही नहीं, ऐसी इंडस्ट्रीज में काम करने वाले श्रमिकों के लिये वेज बोर्ड वगैरह कायम किये गये और दो तीन दफा उन का वेतन बढ़ाया गया। इस के मुकाबले में ऐसे श्रमिक हैं, जिन की हालत बहुत गिरी हुई है, जिन को बहुत कम वेतन मिलता है और अक्सर उस में उन का शोषण होता रहता है, लेकिन उन के लिये अभी भी कितनी ही राज्य सरकारें मिनिमम वेज कायम नहीं कर पाई हैं। अधिक दुख इस बात में होता है कि उन उद्योगों में बेशुमार कमाई हो रही है। उदाहरणस्वरूप मैं बीड़ी उद्योग का जिक्र करना चाहता हूं। हमारे प्रदेश में बीड़ी उद्योग में कम से कम चार पांच लाख श्रमिक काम करते हैं। पुराने बम्बई स्टेट में बीड़ी उद्योग में काम करने वाले श्रमिकों के लिये जब मिनिमम वेज कायम किया गया और यह निश्चित किया गया कि

उन को कम से कम वेतन क्या मिलना चाहिए, तो बीड़ी उद्योग पुराने बम्बई स्टेट से शिफ्ट कर के मध्य भारत में ले जाया गया, क्योंकि यह उद्योग सूपड़े में चलता है और इस के लिये बिल्डिंग या मशीन वगैरह की जरूरत नहीं पड़ती है। एक सूपड़े में तम्बाकू, डोरा और पत्ता रख लिया जाता है और उस से बीड़ियां तैयार की जाती हैं। इस में बेहद कमाई होती है। मध्य भारत में जब बीड़ी वर्कर्ज का मिनिमम वेज कायम किया गया, तो वह उद्योग मध्य भारत से शिफ्ट हो कर पुराने मध्य प्रदेश में चला गया। जब मध्य प्रदेश में मिनिमम वेज कायम होता है, तो सारे का सारा उद्योग बिहार की तरफ़ चला जाता है। शासन के सामने यह एक बड़ा विचारणीय सवाल है कि एक ही उद्योग में काम करने वाले श्रमिकों के लिये, अनस्किल्ड वर्कर्स के लिये, मिनिमम वेज क्या होना चाहिए। समय समय पर जो कमेटियां बिठाई गईं, उन्होंने इस बारे में विचार किया। अभी माननीय सदस्य, श्री गुप्ता, ने कहा कि "कैपेसिटी टु पे"को देखना चाहिए। मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि मिनिमम वेज के लिये "कैपेसिटी टु पे" का सवाल ही नहीं उठता। जब उन लोगों को कम से कम देना है, तो "कैपेसिटी टु पे"का सवाल क्या है? जब लिविंग वेज का सवाल आता है, तब यह विचार करना पड़ता है कि यह इंडस्ट्री कुछ दे सकती है या नहीं, कितना दे सकती है, कितना बोझा उठा सकती है। मैं ने अपने अनुभव से यह देखा है कि जिस इंडस्ट्री में गवर्नमेंट ने ज्यादा से ज्यादा दिलाने की कोशिश की होगी, वह इंडस्ट्री उतनी ही अधिक बढ़ी और फली फूली होगी और जिस इंडस्ट्री में कम से कम दिया गया होगा, वह इंडस्ट्री पनप नहीं पाई होगी। मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि यह मेरा जाती तजुर्बा है। क्यों? जब वर्कर्ज को कुछ मिलता है, तो उद्योग के चलाने वाले भी यह विचार करते हैं कि इंडस्ट्री को किस तरह से चलाना चाहिए, क्योंकि इंडस्ट्री को चलाना है, उस में से प्राफ़िट निकालना है, उस में से कमीशन लेना है। मेरा यह निवेदन है कि कितने ही ऐसे उद्योग हैं, जहां के लिये हम ने मिनिमम वेज कायम नहीं किया। टैक्स्टाइल इंडस्ट्री एक ही सैक्टर में है। तो फिर उस एक ही इंडस्ट्री में मिनिमम वेज अलग अलग होना भी समझ में नहीं आता। हम ने एक प्रिंसिपल, एक सिद्धान्त ठहरा लिया है कि एक ही सैक्टर में एक ही उद्योग में कम से कम वेतन एक होना चाहिए, लेकिन हम देखते हैं कि दिल्ली में चार टैक्स्टाइल मिलों में से तीन मिलों में मिनिमम वेज तीस रुपये है और एक मिल में २८ रुपये है।

मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि अगर मिनिमम वेज के बारे में गवर्नमेंट टाइम लिमिट नहीं मुकर्रर करती है, तो उस को मतलब तो यह होगा कि राज्य सरकारें बेफ़िक्र हो जायेंगी कि वे जब चाहें, इस काम को करें। मैं समझता हूं कि केन्द्रीय सरकार को मिनिमम वेज के बारे में कुछ सिद्धान्त तय कर लेना होगा कि अमुक टाइम में हर एक इंडस्ट्री में मिनिमम वेज कायम हो जाना चाहिए। अगर वह उस लिमिट में कायम नहीं होता है, तो केन्द्रीय शासन एक नोटिफ़िकेशन के द्वारा यह जाहिर करेगा कि अमुक इंडस्ट्री में मिनिमम वेज अमुक होना चाहिए। माननीय मंत्री, श्री शाह, मेरी बात पर हंस रहे हैं। मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि अगर केन्द्रीय शासन पर कुछ जवाबदेही डाली जायगी, तो वह बहुत ज्यादा ऐक्टिव हो जायेगा।

अभी कल ग्रामोद्योग और खादी के सवाल पर विचार किया गया, जिस में लाखों वर्कर्ज काम कर रहे हैं। गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से अनुदान दे कर, पहनने वालों को रीबेट दे कर और सस्ती खादी दे कर उन को खादी पहनाने की कोशिश की जाती है। लेकिन वहां लाखों की तादाद में काम करने वालों को प्रति दिन क्या मिलता है? उन के लिये कोई निश्चित दर नहीं है कि आठ घंटे

[श्री राम सिंह भाई वर्मा]

काम करने पर उन को क्या मिलेगा । खादी में पीस-रेट की व्यवस्था है । कताई में चार आने प्रति हैंक के हिसाब से दिया जाता है । आठ घंटे में कितने हैंक आ सकते हैं और इस हिसाब से प्रति दिन उन को प्रति व्यक्ति क्या मिलना चाहिये, यह देखना चाहिये । लेकिन हो यह रहा है कि उस में .....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I went through the original Act as also the amending Bill All that has been said by both sides are irrelevant. This is a small amending Bill which mentions only two things. Of course, other things may be very good and useful, especially the principles on which the minimum wage is fixed. Those principles have not been set out either in the original Act or in the amending Bill. But the amending Bill only says that the time that has been prescribed shall be extended from December 1959. That is all that it says.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: It should be removed.

Mr. Speaker: Many industries and various kinds of employment have fixed the minimum wage. Therefore, there is no meaning in keeping that date. It must be removed. The other amendment is about the pendency of any dispute. But how do the other things arise? A principle may be very good. There can be indication of the lines or principles on which the minimum wages are fixed. After so much of experience, they must arrive at a formula as to what is a reasonable minimum wage and how it is fixed. What are the needs of an individual? Does it mean only himself or, if he is married and has children, does it include his children also. Will it include clothing? All that may be taken into account in arriving at a decent living. This may be specified. But that is not the scope of this Bill. The Bill is limited in scope.

I think the hon. Member must conclude. I am sorry that I allowed all this.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: As you have pointed out, this is not a sliding scale and so on. You yourself feel it.

Mr. Speaker: That is true. But what can be done? The scope of the Bill is limited.

श्री राम सिंह भाई वर्मा : मेरा निवेदन यह है कि यह जो मिनिमम वेज एक्ट है यह शुरू में १९४८ में पास किया गया था और उस में टाइम फिक्स कर दी गई थी कि इतने समय के अन्दर शैड्यूल्ड इंडस्ट्रीज में मिनिमम वेजिज कायम हो जानी चाहियें । लेकिन राज्य सरकारें उस टाइम लिमिट में इसे नहीं कर पाई और एमेंडमेंट द्वारा फिर टाइम लिमिट को बढ़ाया गया । उस टाइम लिमिट में भी वे नहीं कर पाई । इस के बाद फिर इस टाइम लिमिट को बढ़ाया गया । अन्त में यह किया गया है कि अब कोई टाइम लिमिट नहीं है । मेरा निवेदन यह है कि अमुक स्टेज है और उस स्टेज के अन्दर अमुक बात हो जाये, इसे आप को देखना चाहिये । हमारी नेशनल इनकम बढ़ती जा रही है, कई इंडस्ट्रीज के अन्दर मिनिमम वेजिज रिवाइज हो रही हैं, वेज बोर्ड कायम हो रहे हैं, पे कमीशन नियुक्त किये जा रहे हैं, ऐसी हालत में जहां मजदूर दबे हुए हैं और जिन की संख्या लाखों में है और जिन के लिये कोई प्रोटैक्शन नहीं है, एक टाइम के अन्दर अन्दर वहां मिनिमम वेजिज कायम हो जानी चाहियें । इस तरह की छूट देना कि कितने ही समय के अन्दर मिनिमम वेजिज कायम की जा सकती हैं, खराब है ।

13.52 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

अगर राज्य सरकारें अमुक टाइम के अन्दर मिनिमम वेजिज कायम करने में असमर्थ

रहती हैं, तो केन्द्रीय शासन को इस चीज को तय करना चाहिये, फिर चाहे इस को करने के लिये कोई भी तरीका अख्तियार किया जाये, चाहे त्रिदलीय सम्मेलन बुला कर किया जाये, या इंडियन लेबर कांफ्रेन्स में किया जाये या किसी और प्रकार से किया जाये। मैं समझता हूं कि मिनिमम वेज एक्ट के अन्दर एमेंडमेंट ला कर यह तय कर दिया जाना चाहिये कि अगर राज्य शासन ने मिनिमम वेज इतने समय के अन्दर शैडयूल्ड इंडस्ट्रीज के अन्दर तय नहीं की तो केन्द्रीय सरकार नोटिफिकेशन के द्वारा या किसी और तरीके से ऐसा कर सकती है और कह सकती है कि अमुक इंडस्ट्री के अन्दर काम करने वाले श्रमिकों के लिए अमुक मिनिमम वेज होगी। इस एक्ट के अन्दर आज जो खामियां हैं, वे बहुत जबरदस्त हैं। इंडियन लेबर कांफ्रेन्स के फार्मूले के अनुसार जो त्रिदलीय सम्मेलन बुलाया जाता है और जिस में राज्य शासन के प्रतिनिधि बैठते हैं, एम्प्लायर्ज के प्रतिनिधि बैठते हैं, एम्प्लाईज के प्रतिनिधि बैठते हैं और यह फैसला करते हैं कि क्या मिनिमम वेज होनी चाहिये और इस के बारे में एग्रीमेंट हो जाता है और उस के फलस्वरूप राज्य शासन विधान सभा में कानून लाता है, उस को पास कराता है और उस के बाद उस को राष्ट्रपति जी की स्वीकृति भी मिल जाती है यह सब कुछ हो चुकने के बाद जो एम्पलायर्ज होते हैं वे हाई कोर्ट में जाते हैं और रिट ले आते हैं जो ठीक नहीं है। ऐसा कर के त्रिदलीय सम्मेलन का जो एग्रीड फार्मूला था और जिस के अनुसार मिनिमम वेज तय होनी थी, उस को लागू नहीं होने देते हैं, उस को लम्बा करते चले जाते हैं। मेरा निवेदन यह है कि मिनिमम वेज एमेंडमेंट बिल जो है उस से कोई ज्यादा सहायता नहीं मिलेगी, बल्कि उस से यह होगा कि राज्य शासन ढीले पड़ जायेंगे। इस वास्ते मिनिमम वेज फिक्स करने के मामले को केन्द्रीय शासन को देखने की जरूरत है। उसे देखना चाहिये कि जहां जहां पर भी मिनिमम वेज फिक्स नहीं हुई है, वहां वहां वह जल्दी फिक्स हो जाये।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now that the hon. Speaker has made those observations, hon. Members would see to it that they are within those limits.

Dr. Melkote (Raichur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I was myself feeling that what the hon. Speaker said was the correct thing. Therefore my remarks would be very limited.

In 1948 or thereabouts the Minimum Wages Act prescribed that within a specific period and in scheduled industries the minimum wages would be fixed. Time was extended once, twice and thrice and even today we find that in some of the industries a minimum wage has not been fixed. Maybe that different factors operating in different States preclude such fixation of minimum wages, but it was said earlier that wherever minimum wages cannot be fixed it would only be fairs to close those industries in which it cannot come into operation instead of making people live on not even minimum wages.

India has been feeling and everyone in the country has been feeling that a fair and a living wage ought to be given to every worker. But there are cases of this type where not even a minimum wage has been given. My hon. colleague on the other side, Shri Banerjee, pointed out that wages are so low that it would be very difficult to obtain the 32 ounces prescribed by the Wage Board.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I did not say that. I said that 32 ounces of commodities could not be had for 56 nP. That has been my argument for the last four years.

Dr. Melkote: I agree with you and I support you. Even that cannot be obtained. The minimum wage fixed today will not bring that amount of commodity and if even that minimum wage is not fixed, how is a person to live? That is exactly the problem. I felt that when the Minimum Wages (Amendment) Bill was brought for-

[Dr. Melkote]

ward it would be to revise what has already been fixed in 1952, 1954, 1956 and all these years. The minimum wages have got to be revised. That is the state in which we are in now. Today we find that in some of these industries even this minimum wage has not yet been fixed, while it becomes unnecessary to allow this kind of thing to drag on and extend the time limit. I could understand why the Government brought forward this Bill. But I would only plead with the hon. Deputy Minister that he would see to it that the State sector does not take this as giving them a latitude not to fix even the minimum wages hereafter. Enforcement of this Act in all sectors is necessary.

That is only one aspect of the question. I would even request the hon. Deputy Minister to take time to bring forward another amending Bill here which would revise the present minimum wage fixed in different industries. That is what is necessary. I personally feel that the hon. Deputy Minister will take this into consideration. Beyond this I have nothing to add.

Shri K. N. Pande (Hata): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, after hearing the speeches of some of the hon. Members I am also of the opinion that a mountain is being made of a molehill. Really there is nothing in this amendment. The initial stages have passed and I do not think that any time limit is required to be fixed. But I have to say something about how the machinery for fixing the minimum wages was functioning.

I have found that the same agricultural workers, if they are in the Punjab, are getting something else, if they are in UP, are getting something else and if they are in Bihar, they are getting something else. The lowest wage in Orissa is something else. I cannot understand as to what the principles behind it are and what is the basis on these wages are fixed. After all, this minimum wage is not that minimum wage which is fixed in an established industry, like, textiles, sugar and other industries. It is meant, I think, for agricultural workers.

It has been mentioned by Shri Gupta that benefit of the Minimum Wages Act has not been given to the agricultural workers so far as UP is concerned. But it is not true. I know that in many districts these benefits have been extended. We have seen that wages according to the Minimum Wages Act have been fixed.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: only in four districts.

Shri K. N. Pande: No. It is not correct to say that it does not apply to agricultural workers in UP. If you say that, I challenge that statement. There are so many instances. It applies there and in some places the people are getting much more than what the Minimum Wages Act gives. In U.P. it has been fixed only Re. 1 per day, but I can prove that in big agricultural farms there are people who are getting even Rs. 2 per day. What is the use of having this minimum wage there? If it does not apply in any corner of that State, it is because of the fact, that the workers are getting much more than what is fixed. This is what I wanted to say in this connection.

Then, the only thing I wanted to say was that the time has come when the wage fixing mechineries have to change their outlook.

14 hrs.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: What does he mean....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. I do realise that both come from U.P. But here they are in different positions.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: I do not come from U.P. But may I ask one question? What does he mean by saying that they are getting more than the minimum wages? There are no minimum wages fixed.

Shri K. N. Pande: They are fixed.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Who fixed?

Shri K. N. Pande: In U.P. it has been fixed at one rupee per day. But there are so many places, and mostly on big farms people are getting even two rupees per day.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: In big farms they may get.

Shri K. N. Pande: They are workers. My suggestion is that some more amendments are required so far as this Act is concerned.

First of all, I want to say that some principle should be laid down as to how the minimum wages will be fixed. And the schedules also required to be amended. For example, in Kanpur there is a leather industry, that of Cooper Allen. This Minimum Wages Act is still applying there and the workers are to get, according to this Act, only one rupee per day, whereas they are getting much more than sixty rupees per month. Then how is the leather industry to be treated as a sweated industry? Cooper Allens are exporting shoes even to Russia and other countries.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: From one rupee it was raised to Re. 1.74 nP.

Shri K. N. Pande: That is true. But they are getting even more than that. My suggestion is that the schedules should now be revised and the minimum wages should be fixed, taking into consideration the paying capacity of the industry; and those industries should be excluded from that list which can pay more wages to the workers than what they are going to fix under this Minimum Wages Act.

One thing more. The time is passing on. We started with this in 1952 and we have now come to 1961. But they are restricting this to the same old principle that the minimum wages should be only one rupee, twelve annas, something like that. They do not take into consideration the changing conditions in this country, the general level of earning of the nation. Where the workers are organised they are demanding more wages. But these poor workers who are unorganised have to be protected by Government. But this minimum wages fixing machinery is taking the same old consideration for fixing the wages. Some new idea has to come there. The machinery has to be directed that in the changed conditions some new principle should be laid down. For other industries some norms have been fixed. First the norms are taken into consideration. If an industry cannot pay according to that, the wages are reduced and cause is given. Here no cause is given. Why should the minimum wage not be increased? The hon. Minister should take into consideration the changing condition of the country and the greater needs of the people. Can a worker send his children to the school if he gets only one rupee per day? If there is a poor farmer, more than one rupee cannot be given by him. That is a different matter. But in big farms and big concerns which can afford to pay more, the workers should not be dragged into the clutches of this Minimum Wages Act and paid only one rupee per day.

All these things should be taken into consideration before this new machinery operates or this Act, after this amendment, operates.

Shri Abid Ali: The scope of the amending Bill is very much limited. But I appreciate the anxiety of the hon. Members who have participated in the debate to cover everything which is mentioned in the principal Act, about its working, administration and other matters.

The difficulty, so far as some hon. Members opposite are concerned, is

[Shri Abid Ali]

that they do not very much rely on the strength of the trade union movement and they do not try to organise the trade union movement on proper lines, so that the workers may achieve, through their organisation, what they deserve.

The hon. Member from Calcutta spoke with regard to cinema employees. He went to the extent of saying that some of the Ministers are influenced by a section of the employers; but still, in the same breath, he had to confess that the Ministers could not be influenced. So, that is the integrity of the Ministers: they are always alert to do their part of the job, so far as the workers are concerned, and particularly the workers who are not organised or properly organised—irrespective of the leadership, for the time being, which has been trying to mislead them. In other parts of the country like Bombay and Madras, even cinema workers are properly organised and they have been receiving the benefit of the enactments which have been promulgated and, through collective bargaining and through industrial courts, their wages have been brought on to the required level.

So, advantage is taken of these discussions here always to try to criticise the Government, although without substance, and they themselves in the latter part of their speech do realise that Congress Ministers have been able to do much for the workers. And in other sections, the hon. Member said that the employers have been influencing Congress Ministers not to apply the provision of the Minimum Wages Act for certain workers. Apart from Shri Muhammed Elias, Shri Indrajit Gupta also seems to have been impressed by the same argument—may be he has borrowed it from his colleague there. But the position is quite different. No hon. Member has tried to show how many workers were coverable, how many have been covered and how many have not been covered. They say "it is a confession of failure". Maybe, where you have done 95 per cent of the job and 5 per cent. has not been achieved, to the extent of the five per cent there is failure.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: You were supposed to do it by the Act three years ago, not now.

Shri Abid Ali: But to the extent of the 95 per cent, if the attempt has been successful, then it cannot be termed as "a confession of failure".

Shri S. M. Banerjee: What are your figures?

Shri Abid Ali: Just now I was going to do that. These are the figures, and I was myself going to mention them. How much does the hon. Member expect? That will be interesting. In the States, 9,74,644 workers have been covered. In the Central sphere, ...

Shri Indrajit Gupta: How many are coverable and how many remain uncovered?

Shri Abid Ali: That is what I wanted to know from the hon. Member?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: How can we give figures? We do not have a statistical department.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Member has made an enquiry. If he has got the figures, he will give.

Shri Abid Ali: I appreciate the difficulty of the hon. Member. But, how does he jump to the conclusion that it is a confession of failure? He does not know whether it is one lakh or two lakhs or 50,000 more workers could be covered.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is but natural that when the hon. Minister says that 9 lakhs have been covered, the query should come 9 lakhs out of how many.

Shri Abid Ali: I am coming to that. That is with regard to the State sector.

So far as the Central sphere is concerned, it is 5,85,857 who are covered. With regard to agriculture, my hon. friend from the U.P. was being questioned from the other side. But, the fact is that the following States have fixed wages in agriculture for the entire State. These are: Bihar, Kerala, Madya Pradesh, Mysore, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Those which have applied this for a part of the State are: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madras, and the Union territory of Himachal Pradesh. For the Union territories of Tripura and Delhi, the whole has been covered. With regard to how many have not been covered, it is a very small number, a very negligible number. I have said in my opening remarks that the object of the Act has been achieved. Very few here and there might have remained. No complaint has been brought to our notice that these particular workers who could be covered have not been covered. We are not fixing any date, because there is no target. Some new industry may start which has no organised labour. If we fix any date, it will not be possible.

Shri Muhammed Elias: What about mine workers other than coal? What about transport workers? What about tailors? What about shops establishments? Millions of workers are employed here. They are not yet covered by minimum wages. He said most of the workers have been covered.

Shri Abid Ali: So far as transport workers are concerned, they are already covered. (*Interruption*).

Shri S. M. Banerjee: He has not answered your question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Would there be a category for interruptors also?

Shri Abid Ali: Of the public motor transport workers, to the extent of 36,000 have been covered under the Minimum wages Act. Besides this, a very large number of workers have already been covered by agreements and awards under the Industrial Disputes Act, Bombay Industrial Relations Act and others. In the B.E.S.T. in Bombay, there are 20,000. They are not covered by the Minimum Wages Act. They are much more advanced. They are better organised. The Minimum Wages Act is taken advantage of by workers who are not organised, who cannot have trade union movement of the required standard, and get fixed minimum wages. The Government appoints inspectors to go and inspect the records of the employers, meet the workers, make enquiries whether they are paid properly or not, compare their statements with the registers which the employers keep in which the signatures are to be obtained that fixed minimum wages have been paid to the workers. It is not that minimum wages are fixed for all workers; these are only 35 lakhs that I have mentioned. Besides them, there are many millions in this country working in the industrial sector, who are covered by other enactments. They are taking full advantage of them.

With regard to this amendment, what has been stated by my hon. friend from Chalisgaon is quite proper. I am in entire agreement. Whatever was stated here has been taken note of by the officials and they are consulting the Law Ministry, because, my intention is also the same that whenever a particular dispute is referred to adjudication or other authority, in a particular unit, then for those workers concerned, until the revised wages are fixed, the minimum wages for the time being should apply. The wages which were already fixed and which they were getting, they will continue to get till they are revised by the industrial court or any other appropriate authority. In the meantime, if these are revised under the Minimum wages Act, that revision will remain in suspense so far as these particular workers are concerned.

[Shri Abid Ali]

A very pertinent point was mentioned by my friend, why these workers should not have the benefit of having interim relief. It is quite clear that the authority which is investigating the general question of fixation of their wages is always at liberty on the request of the workers or their representatives to give them an interim increase.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Now they can't by this amendment, they can't.

Shri Abid Ali: I was submitting that the authority—not the authority under the Minimum wages Act—the authority which is hearing their dispute.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Now, it will not remain.

Shri Nausair Bharucha: They can't have any right under the law to fix any minimum wages.

Shri Abid Ali: Not the minimum wage; to revise the wages. The workers in a unit who are getting Rs. 1-4-0 on the basis of the minimum wages fixed for them, have gone before an authority under the Industrial Disputes Act or others. The workers' representative can ask for an interim award and that is quite legal so far as I know. It is given in several places and taken advantage of by the workers.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: If the dispute does not relate to the minimum rate?

Shri Abid Ali: Not the rate; the wage—how much the workers in a particular unit should get—to that extent. About the norms or about the basis for the fixation of minimum wages, my friends have been good enough to give suggestions. But, we do not want to do anything of that kind, particularly because, as it happens not only with regard to minimum wages fixation, but also in regard to other adjudications, arbitrations, etc. in regard to industrial matters, the workers' representatives are at liberty to put up their case and on the basis of what they place before the authority, on the basis of the paying capacity, this matter is decided. Here, in this particular matter, on the Advisory board, the workers also have got their representative. Besides this privilege, the workers and their organisations have to come before the Minimum wage fixation authority or Advisory committees to place their case, to plead their case and to help the Committee to come to a correct decision. The workers have got their representatives as well. Their representatives will be representing the union before the committee and the members of the committee and the workers will have fair, full opportunity to put up whatever they want to say. There are enough statistics available. Plenty of literature is available. The decision of the Indian Labour Conference is there. It is mentioned there that whenever principles are fixed, this should be taken into consideration by the Board or committee or Advisory committee whichever is considering the fixation or revision of wages. That is always available.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Is that still the Government's view that these bodies should keep that in mind?

Shri Abid Ali: It has not been revised. The recommendation says that the authority should take into consideration. If they are not able to fix wages on this basis, they should give the reason.

Shri Prabhat Kar (Hooghly): To what extent is it obligatory on the wage fixing authority to take into consideration all these decisions?

Shri Abid Ali: Whatever is mentioned in the decision which was taken at the Indian Labour conference they should take into consideration. They do take it into consideration. They may agree, they may not agree, it may not be possible to follow: that is a different matter.

Shri Prabhat Kar: My question is, to what extent it is obligatory on the fixing authority. Has it any force?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That he has tried to explain that this is to be taken into consideration and whether they agree with it or not is a different affair. That means that it is not obligatory.

Shri Prabhat Kar: I am not on that point. My point is different. Is it obligatory on the part of the wage-fixing authority to take that into consideration? They may agree or they may disagree. We know that there are wage-fixing authorities who say that it is not necessary to take that into consideration at all, that is, the decision of the Labour Conferences.

Shri Abid Ali: It is obligatory on them to take into consideration what is recommended there.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member says that certain authorities have averred or alleged that it is not obligatory that they must take those recommendations into consideration.

Shri Abid Ali: Who can come in the way of any authority or any committee taking into consideration anything that is placed before them? They will take it into consideration, as I have said earlier.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: They are not bound to take such recommendations into consideration. There is no statute saying that they shall be bound to take into consideration.

Shri Abid Ali: If they are not bound, they are not bound; I cannot bind them.

Shri K. N. Pande: Do these wage-fixing authorities call the parties before them? They never call the parties.

Shri Abid Ali: They never call! They should call the parties concerned.

Shri K. N. Pande: They should call. That is what I would suggest.

Shri Abid Ali: Certainly, they should call. They are fixing wages for certain workers. Those workers and their representatives should be at liberty to go before them and place their point of view. If that is not done, and that is the information of the hon. Member, I shall look into it and try to see that they are called.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: To the Government's knowledge, do the reports of any of these minimum-wage-fixing committees anywhere discuss the 15th Labour Conference norm and give reasons for and against accepting it?

Shri Abid Ali: I know this much that there have been several committees for fixing minimum wages and also for revision of minimum wages.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: On what basis?

Shri Abid Ali: And their decisions, as I have said, are unanimous. The workers' representatives also sit on these committees, and my hon. friend who has just spoken also had the privilege of being represented on this committee.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Representing the workers.

Shri Abid Ali: Yes, he was a member of the committee. All these committees' reports are unanimous.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Naturally.

Shri Abid Ali: The workers' representatives who sit on the committee are also quite sensible and reasonable people, and after considering all that is placed before them and all that they know themselves, the committee comes to a unanimous decision. And now to come here and object to that decision will, I submit, not be quite proper.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is the only difficulty that unanimity cannot be arrived at here.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: On a point of explanation. If the worker's representatives do not agree unanimously with the others, then they know that the report will not be implemented, and, therefore, they are forced to be unanimous.

Shri Abid Ali: It is not correct. Government also have authority....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then, the workers' representative uses his discretion and is wise enough.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: He has to agree.

Shri Abid Ali: It is not correct. These committees are of an advisory nature. Their reports are submitted to Government. And on the basis of the report, a decision is taken. Up to this time there had been no occasion for us to revise the basis which had been recommended by the committee, because it was unanimous. But if the committee's report is not unanimous, then Government have discretion to come to their own decision, and it is not that the labour will be wasted, or that the workers will not get the benefit of the minimum wage; they will get it. But, as they have been reasonable people and they have been acting reasonably, there has been no occasion for us to revise their decisions so far.

With regard to the amendment, of course, we shall have occasion to discuss it during the clause-by-clause consideration stage, and, therefore, we need not go into that.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Is the Bill going to be amended further?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member should have patience.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: He said that he had referred something to the Law Ministry or the law officers.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He did say so. In fact, I just wanted to interrupt the hon. Minister at that stage. He had said that something reasonable had ben said and that the officials had taken note of it and that they were in consultation with the Law Ministry.

Shri Abid Ali: I have sent them the note.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is not proper to say that, when the hon. Minister himself is responsible to Parliament and he has to take note himself of everything that is said here, and not the officials; rather, the officials should not be referred to in that manner here when we are discussing it here.

Shri Abid Ali: Actually I had sent them the note.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Whatever he might do with his officials, he should keep that to himself. Here he should only say that he has taken note of the suggestion and he is just proceeding with it.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Since the amendment is going to be recast or something like that is going to be done, I would submit that before we discuss the clauses, the amendment that Government are thinking of should be circulated to us. Otherwise, there is no use of discussing the clauses.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Of course, it will be circulated, if there is something; but probably there is nothing just for the present.

The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2— (*Amendment of section 3*).

Amendment made:

Page 2, *for* lines 6 to 14, *substitute*:

"(2A) Where in respect of an industrial dispute relating to the

rates of wages payable to any of the employees employed in a scheduled employment, any proceeding is pending before a Tribunal or National Tribunal under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 or before any like authority under any other law for the time being in force, or an award made by any Tribunal, National Tribunal or such authority is in operation, and a notification fixing or revising the minimum rates of wages in respect of the scheduled employment is issued during the pendency of such proceeding or the operation of the award, then, notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the minimum rates of wages so fixed or so revised shall not apply to those employees during the period in which the proceeding is pending and the award made therein is in operation or, as the case may be, where the notification is issued during the period of operation of an award, during that period; and where such proceeding or award relates to the rates of wages payable to all the employees in the scheduled employment, no minimum rates of wages shall be fixed or revised in respect of that employment during the said period.". (1)

(*Shri Abid Ali*).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 3, clause 4, clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

Shri Abid Ali: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed".

The motion was adopted.

14.27 hrs.

SALT CESS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The next item on the Order Paper is the Salt Cess (Amendment) Bill. The hon. Minister in charge is not here. Should I adjourn the House until he comes?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): On behalf of Shri Manubhai Shah, I shall move the Bill for consideration, and the motion may then be placed before the House for discussion.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: But some speech shall have to be made. Will the hon. Deputy Minister be able to do that?

Shri Abid Ali: Only formally, I shall move the Bill for consideration.

Shri Naushir Bharucha (East Khandesh): It means rather very scant respect to the House that the hon. Minister in charge of the Bill is not here. Notice should be taken of that.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Really, it is; I agree, but perhaps there might have been some mistake.

Shri Abid Ali: I shall move the Bill for consideration.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister in charge of the Bill is not here. The House cannot wait until he comes. The Whips ought to have taken enough care to bring the hon. Minister here in time.

Shri Rane (Buldana): He was here a little while ago.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: But he is not here at the time when the House wants him.

Shri Abid Ali: When we were discussing the other Bill I felt that there were a large number of speakers, and I told him that perhaps the discussion on that Bill might continue for an hour more. He was sitting here for more than an hour, and because of what I had told him, he might have gone out for a while.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is that enough explanation?

Shri Abid Ali: I am only explaining the position as it was. Therefore, with your permission, I may just move the Bill for consideration formally, and let there be a discussion.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If hon. Members take exception to that simple motion that the hon. Minister may move namely that the Bill be taken into consideration, and they are not prepared to discuss it, unless some opening speech is there, then what is to be done?

Shri Abid Ali: At any rate this is not a controversial subject.

Some Hon. Members: The House may be adjourned for fifteen minutes

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): I am very sorry for the interruption in the business of the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members point out—and I agree with them —that it is not fair to the House that Ministers shall not be present at the proper time.

Shri Kanungo: I am sorry for it and offer my apologies.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I think enough has been said. Let us now proceed with the Bill.

Shri Kanungo: Sir, I beg to move:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Salt Cess Act, 1953, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the Bill is a simple one as can be seen from the Statement of Objects and Reasons. After the abolition of the duty on salt with effect from the 1st April, 1947, Government levied under executive orders certain charges on salt to meet the establishment charges of the Salt Organisation. Under these orders, these charges were levied as follows:—

(a) in the case of salt manufactured in private salt factories, at the rate of two annas a maund; and

(b) in the case of salt manufactured in Government salt factories, at the rate of three and a half annas a maund.

This levy was later placed on a statutory footing in 1953 by the enactment of the Salt Cess Act, which provides for the collection of the charges as cess on salt.

The Hindustan Salt Company (a limited company wholly owned by the Central Government) was established in April 1958 in pursuance of a recommendation made by the Estimates Committee, primarily with the object of taking over and running the Government salt works and also to carry on all kinds of business relating to the manufacture and sale of salt, including its bye-products and other allied chemicals, either obtained in the course of salt production or processed from salt as raw material. The Government Salt Works at Sambhar, Kharaghoda and Didwana were transferred to the Company with effect from the 1st January, 1959. The Didwana source has since been returned to the Government of Rajasthan. The transfer of Mandi Salt Mines—the only commercial source now remaining with the Salt Department—has been held in abeyance pending the execution of certain works in the mines.

The authorised capital of the company is Rs. one crore divided into 10,000 equity shares of Rs. 1,000 each. The subscribed and fully paid up share capital of the company todate is

Rs. 24,20,000. Further capital equal to the value of the assets transferred to the company from the Salt Department will be made available to the company shortly.

Production of salt by the company during 1959 and 1960 at the Sambhar salt works was 62,36,000 maunds and 65,56,000 maunds respectively, while at Kharaghoda production was of the order of 52,12,000 maunds and 40,32,000 maunds respectively.

As I mentioned earlier, the Government salt works pay a cess of 3¼ annas, i.e., 1½ annas more than private manufacturers. The main reason which weighed with Government for charging this additional 1½ annas as cess was because the administration and organisational cost of running these works as well as that of the Salt Department was being borne by Government and only a portion of this expenditure was reflected in the cost of production of salt works. The position, however, changed with effect from the 1st January, 1959 with the transfer of most of the Government salt works to the Hindustan Salt Company Ltd. The Company now bears the full cost of administration, etc., like any other private manufacturers and on account of the higher cess they have to bear, under present orders, has been experiencing difficulty in disposing of their production, particularly Kharaghoda. Stocks of salt at the Government salt works at this place were accumulating and the Company had to reduce the selling price to levels even below the cost of production in order to be able to compete with private manufacturers in the area. The company had been making repeated representations to Government against the levy of cess at a higher rate on their production, which precludes them from competing on equal terms with private manufacturers of the area and avoiding the losses incurred by them on running this source. The Company, although owned by the Central Government is subject, like any private salt manufacturing company, to pay taxes.

Sir, here I may recall that the Salt Committee appointed by the Government of India in 1958, to assess production in different sectors and to review the existing concessions and to consider other matters connected with the development of the salt industry recommended, among other things, that with the Federal Financial Integration of States and the transfer of Government salt works to the Hindustan Salt Company Ltd., there was no longer any justification for the levy of a higher rate of cess on salt produced in government factories, especially as the company had to bear all the overhead charges as any other manufacturer and had also to pay taxes like other private manufacturers of salt, which was not the case when the works were run departmentally. Government have considered this recommendation of the Committee in the light of the experience of the Hindustan Salt Company Ltd., and have come to the conclusion that the levy of cess should be on a uniform basis, especially as most of the Government salt works are now run under company form of management. Existing cess concessions granted in favour of small producers, cooperative societies, etc. under the provisions of Section 6 of the Salt Cess Act, 1953, will, however, remain unaltered.

The proceeds from Salt Cess at present amount to about Rs. 85 lakhs per annum on an average. The proposal to levy a uniform cess on salt will involve a reduction in the cess collections of the order of Rs. 12·75 lakhs per annum, as against which the saving to Government by way of transfer of staff in the salt works transferred to the Company is estimated at Rs. 10 lakhs. Also, the Hindustan Salt Company will be paying taxes to Government like others private and public sector companies.

The House will be interested to know that due to the various measures taken by Government, the country which was deficient in salt in 1947, has made rapid progress in the last few years. The target fixed for the First Five

[Shri Kanungo]

Year Plan was achieved in the first year itself. The target fixed for the Second Plan had also been achieved. We have in fact not only been self-sufficient in salt since 1951, but have also a sizeable surplus for export. Japan has been our main export market, but efforts are being made to diversify our exports.

As the development of the heavy chemical industry has received a fillip and is making considerable progress, there is more and more demand for salt which is the basic raw material for the manufacture of caustic soda and soda ash. The chemical industry alone is likely to require about 3 million tons of salt during the next plan period. It is, therefore, proposed to produce during the Third Plan period 6 million tons of salt against the present production of 3·5 million tons. It is imperative that salt meant for the chemical industry should be of a higher quality. Steps are being taken to improve the quality of salt, more by persuasive measures than by coercion. All facilities are provided to manufacturers in the matter of production of good quality salt. Saurashtra, Kutch and Tuticorin produce excellent quality salt. Efforts are being made to have two or three new salt works established where high purity salt will be produced to meet the demand of the chemical industry.

Every encouragement and assistance is provided to cooperatives in the matter of salt production. Thanks to these measures 30 salt manufacturing cooperatives have come into existence since 1947. The most important incentive provided to cooperative societies is the exemption from payment of Cess. The possibility of establishing more cooperatives for the manufacture of salt is being explored in consultation with the State Governments.

Government propose to place the Salt Administration on a sounder footing. Presently, the task of effecting suitable re-adjustments in the strength and structure of this Department so as to ensure better efficiency and economy in administration is under consideration. The Salt Committee appointed by Government in 1958 to consider matters connected with the development of the Salt Industry has made several recommendations in this connection. Decisions have been reached on all the recommendations, and action to give effect to the decisions is under way.

The Salt Department has already made considerable progress in the matter of provsion of amenities to salt labour such as rest sheds, water supply, provision of schools, medical arrangements, etc. The developmental expenditure incurred by the Salt Department during the Second Plan period amounted to Rs. 33.76 lakhs. During the third plan period, it is proposed to spend Rs. 20 lakhs annually on the development of the existing salt works in the private sector.

The Central and Regional Advisory Boards for Salt have been rendering valuable assistance to Government in the consideration of various development works of the Salt Industry. With the creation of a Central Salt Board, the organisation will be able to render better services to the Salt Industry.

Government is alive to the need for recovering by-products of salt, which while improving the quality of salt and reducing its cost of production, will make available sodium salts like sodium sulphate, and other chemicals such as gypsum, magnesium sulphate, magnesium chloride, and potassium chloride for some of which we have to depend on imports. Necessary experiments for recovery of muriate of potash from sea brine have been undertaken in the Model Salt Farm at Tuticorin. The Hindustan Salt Company Ltd. have a scheme for production of sodium sulphate and other chemicals at Sambhar Lake, while

the Rajasthan Government's scheme for establishment of a sodium sulphate recovery plant at Didwana is under way. The results of the research being done in the Central Salt Research Institute on the recovery of by-products are available to private manufacturers for adoption in their salt works.

Government propose to take this opportunity to lay down by legislation the rate of cess in metric measures.

Sir, the Salt Industry has a bright future before it; and I would now commend the Bill which is aimed at placing the Government company on a sounder footing to the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Salt Cess Act, 1953, be taken into consideration".

Shri Prabhat Kar (Hooghly): So far as the object of this Bill, namely, to put the government factories on par with the private factories, is concerned, there is no difference of opinion. But the point that now arises is about the increase in the cess on salt. It was two annas per standard maund if manufactured in a private salt factory. Now it is to be 14 nP per forty kilograms.

First of all, I want to know whether there will be any difference between the cess on common salt used by the people for consumption and that salt used by the industry for chemical purposes. So far as common salt is concerned, it has got not only a sentimental tradition but also a political tradition. There should not be any cess on common salt used by the common man of India. I do not know why common salt which is being used by the millions cannot be made cess-free. We have been told that we are selfsufficient in salt production and we are exporting. If that be so, where is the difficulty. Particularly when it is a question of salt, the people of India will remember it with reverence the movement that was launched by Mahatma Gandhi. After independence, I think at least the common salt which all the people use should be free from any taxation.

It is being generally said in Bengal —I do not know about other parts of the country—that the *nunbhath*, that is rice with salt, is the food of the poorest man. Let that at least be free from the taxation of Government

Again, when this question is being raised before the House, I want to know whether there will be any difference between the cess on common salt and the cess on the salt which is being used for chemical purposes.

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): It has been made clear that there is no difference between the two, neither in the original Act nor in the amending Bill.

Shri Prabhat Kar: I have already suggested that common salt which is being used by the common people should be free from any cess. The difference of opinion does not arise so far as equating the government factories and private factories is concerned. On that, I am in agreement with the object of the Bill. But I am going into a deeper question which I want hon. Members to consider, whether the common salt which is being used by the common man should not be made cess-free. This is the most important point.

So far as exports are concerned, we are now exporting salt and there is further scope for export. In that case, if the question of the recovery of the overhead charges comes, that can be found from the export salt. I do not know exactly whether Government will suffer much on this account, if the cess is taken away from the salt used by the common man. I do not

[Shri Prabhat Kar]

know what amount of revenue we get out of the cess. As I said, this is not only a matter of sentiment but it is connected with the movement for independence. From that point of view, I would like to kow exactly how much Government will suffer if common salt is made tax-free or cess-free. At the rate of 14 nP. per forty kilograms, what is the expected revenue?

Secondly, during all these years, the price of salt has gone up. When it was being suggested that salt which is commonly used by all persons should be sold at the minimum cost, we find the price rising. I can understand the rise in the cost of other items. But the rise in the cost of salt has been more than 400 per cent. To this extent, the burden on the common man has increased. I would like hon. Members to consider this aspect. Instead of increasing the cess or price resulting in a rise in the price of salt in the market, the time has come when we should be able to buy common salt in the market without any cess.

So far as the object of this Bill is concerned, it is only about putting the government factories at par with private factories in respect of the levy of cess. As I have said, I am not objecting to putting them on par. As a matter of fact, I do not know why there was such a difference at all. If the private factories were paying a cess of two annas per standard maund, I do not know why the cess was three and a half annas per standard maund in the case of government factories. So this Bill is rather late; this should have been brought forward earlier.

By my first point remains, namely, that the common salt used by the common man of this country should be cess-free. At least let there be one item in respect of which the common man should feel that Government are not taking a tax from him. Though it is a most important item, it is also perhaps a most insignificant item. Otherwise, I have nothing much to say on this Bill.

Shri Kasliwal (Kotah): I very much welcome this Bill, although it has come in a very belated manner. As the hon. Minister said just now, the Salt Inquiry Committee which had been appointed in 1957 had recommended that the salt cess which was being levied both on government salt as well as on private salt should be equalised. I had occasion to travel with that Committee as a member and at that time I had realised that government salt works were working under a tremendous handicap. Not merely that. We found that although the government salt works were compelled to pay far more wages than were being paid by privately-owned factories, they were under this further handicap of an additional salt cess.

The hon. Minister has said that it is primarily because the Hindustan Salt Company has come into being that this is being done. Whether the Hindustan Salt Company came into being or not, so far as the government salt works were concerned, they were to be subjected to no more handicaps than those under which the private salt works were working.

Paragraph 11.0.6 of the Salt Enquiry Committee Report says that this differential in the rate of levy of cess was introduced on 1-4-47 by an executive order, immediately after the abolition of the salt duty. I think that partly answers my hon. friend Shri Prabhat Kar.

I do not know what the reasons were for this difference, why the private sector was being patronised at the expense of the public sector, but presumably, as the Salt Enquiry Committee itself has observed, the reasons were that certain treaty payments had to be made to certain Governments, and that is why all these

extra levies had to be realised from the salt works.

I am glad that Government have now realised that if the Government salt works or the Hindustan Salt Co., has to function in a businesslike way or not go bankrupt, it is absolutely essential that the salt produced by the company should not be handicapped by a greater levy of cess than that on the private salt works.

I had occasion to go and see Kharagoda. I found there literally a large number of co-operatives I do not know whether they were really co-operatives, but they were going by that name. They were all having this concession, and they were paying their workers very poor wages indeed. It was really difficult for the Government salt works to function in competition with them. As the hon. Minister said just now, a large quantity of salt had accumulated at Kharagoda, which for the last three years is continuously being sold at a loss If the extra cess of 1½ annas had not been there, I am quite sure that the Kharagoda salt works would be able to stand on a par with the private salt works. I therefore welcome the provision that there will be no distinction made between the private salt works and Government salt works.

I appeal to the hon. Minister to take in hand the question of export of salt. Our exports have recently suffered a great deal. The quality of our salt is improving. As was mentioned just now, there are many places like Tuticorin where very good quality salt is being manufactured, and we can certainly compete in the export market, but certain handicaps are there. If they are removed, I am quite sure our exports will go up.

Shri Ranga (Tenali): I am in favour of this Bill. I have no objection to this equalisation of the burden of the salt cess as between these two groups of producers. At the same time, I would like Government to take sufficient steps to see that the manufacture of salt in the public sector is carried on more economically, more profitably than at present. If one were to look into the report published by the Hindustan Salt Co., recently, one would find that manufacture of salt by private concerns, including the co-operatives, was cheaper than that of Government, and they were making profits while this company was finding itself not capable of making profits in a uniform manner.

Secondly, there has not been sufficient care taken to see that the salt manufactured does not get damaged. Year after year the Public Accounts Commitee has had to observe that more care should be taken to see that the salt manufactured is properly stored, maintained and marketed without incurring the heavy percentage of loss that has come to be experienced. Many excuses have been given, one being unseasonal reasons. Nevertheless, more care should certainly be taken by this company in regard to the protection of their salt stores I hope attention would be paid to this particular aspect.

Thirdly, I hope Government would not take the facility with which this House is willing to pass this Bill as a kind of encouragement for coming forward with any kind of proposal for a restoration of the earlier salt tax. I know there have been certain responsible authorities including the Taxation Enquiry Commission which have been wondering why the salt tax should have been abolished, why it should not be brought back. I wish to make it very clear, as the hon. friend on my right did, that we anyhow are not in favour of the old salt tax being brought in again. Whatever might be the needs of the Government for more and more tax revenues, they should certainly not try to reimpose the salt tax, and I hope they would stick to the assurance they themselves have given to the people in the days when we were fighting for freedom.

[Shri Ranga]

I am anxious that Government should pay increasing attention to the development of the by-products and joint products of salt—products which are produced along with salt, and various other things like Sodium Sulphate produced from out of salt. When I happened to visit Sambar Lake on behalf of the Public Accounts Committee some time ago, I was struck by the paucity of funds for the development of this side of the salt industry. I sincerely hope Government pays special attention to this.

I am also keen that the present position in which Government manufacture finds itself should continue, that there should be these two types of producers, co-operatives and other private agencies producing some salt and the salt, company producing salt and its by prouct and joint products, so that there would be competition between these two and there would be scope for better and more economical management and production on both sides, and in that way the consumer would come to be better served.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur (Pali): I carefully listened to the written speech read out by the Minister of Industries, and I find in spite of many extraneous factors being brought in, the main issue before us in the shape of this Bill has been burked. He has not clinched the main issue.

I shall not go very much into the history of the abolition of the excise duty on salt. I wonder if I need say anything about the historical importance and the background to my hon. friend who comes from Saurashtra. It is the genious of Saurashtra which brought in this abolition of the salt duty and the right to manufacture salt, and gave it the importance which is known the world over.

15 hrs.

Now what is this cess, I have not been able to understand. Immediately after Independence, it was impossible for the Government which came into power to take any other course but to abolish the duty on salt. They had to do it. But they imposed this cess by an executive order. They have to account for this executive order. They wanted this money for certain specific purposes. Then they had to bring a Bill before this House in 1953. The Bill states very clearly the purpose of this cess and we have to take into consideration these purposes when we are considering the equalisation or the continuance of the cess or the purpose for which it was utilised. It was clearly stated that the cess was to meet the expenditure incurred in connection with the salt organisations maintained by the Central Government and to meet the cost of measures taken in connection with the manufacture, supply and distribution of salt by Union agencies. It was to cover the administrative expenditure on the one hand. Besides they also wanted the establishment and maintenance of research stations and model salt farms and also the establishment, maintenance and expansion of salt factories. They wanted to promote and encourage co-operative effort among the manufacturers of salt and promote the welfare of labour employed in the salt industry. These are the specific purposes given out to this Parliament and this Parliament permitted the Government to levy a cess to cover the expenditure falling under these heads. It is not supposed to be a source of earning revenue for the Government. It is just like the abolition of excise duty by one hand and imposing it in another form —you may call it cess—by the other hand. It is nothing else. Now, what has happened? We collected Rs. 95 lakhs in 1953-54 of which we spent only Rs. 41 lakhs. Again in 1954-55 and 1955-56, respectively, we collected Rs. 93 and Rs. 95 lakhs and spent about Rs. 49

and 47 lakhs. In all these eight years we have got Rs. 4 crores which we have put in the Government exchequer.

Shri Ranga: Is it not kept as a reserve?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It goes to the national exchequer as a surplus.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Whether you call it by the name of excise duty or cess, it is not an honest deal. You can certainly have a cess to cover up specific expenditure. Then there is another important factor which has got to be taken into consideration. Here is my hon. friend who spoke before me. As the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, I believe, he went to the Sambhar lake works and he said that they were being starved of funds.

Shri Kasliwal: That was three years ago.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: It may be so. I am taking a statement made by the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. I do not discredit it. Three years back, we had also a surplus of Rs. 3 crores. What is the justification for starving the development works in the Sambhar lake when we have got Rs. 3 crores all the time. There is no justification to transfer a single pie out of this money to the exchequer; it should go squarely to the development of the salt works; otherwise it is completely ignoring the parliamentary sanction.

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): They must be true to the salt they eat.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: I wish so; if we are true to the salt we eat it would be a better world. . . (*Interruptions.*)

My friend Shri Ranga and others have been in the freedom struggle in their own way and they have got a particular sentiment that there should be no salt tax. I do not say that there should be no salt tax or cess. But when you want to levy it, squarely and let the Parliament know it. I have on the floor of this House strongly urged that there is no objection to leying a salt duty. Let it be levied if you are in need of funds. Are we not taxing the poor man today? We are taxing each and everyone and everyone must feel proud of contributing to the national exchequer for the development of this country. Don't you think that the coarse cloth which pays excise duty is as necessary for a poor man as salt? All the necessities of life are being taxed. We are in a very different stage today and we want resources and funds for development purposes. I am not carried away by sentiment nor do I make a show of keeping a particular sentiment or promise when in reality we are not doing so. I think the Goverment should bring forward a Bill here for utilising this sum of Rs. 4 crores for a different purpose. Otherwise, it would almost amount to misappropriation.

Shri Ranga: It is so.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Without specific sanction, how can this money be utilised for a different purpose? . . .

Shri Manubhai Sahah: I will explain it.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Even the interest on these Rs. 4 crores will have to be recovered. I am sure the hon. Minister will explain it. I have great faith in his intelligence and all that. But the fact remains based on information which he will not be able to dispute. We have not spent even half the amount collected by way of this cess for the purposes for which the cess was levied. That must be utilised properly and given to the salt works for their expansion and development; they should not be starved of funds.

Now, how do you justify this duty? We must understand it. Why should it be levied at this particular rate?

[Shri Harish Chandra Mathur]

We have got the experience of about eight years? What is our expenditure under these heads for which cess was levied? My hon. friend explained how much he proposes to spend for those purposes. Has he drawn up a five year plan? He has said just now that it will need about Rs. 20 lakhs for a year for a particular purpose for which you have got all the money. What are the other purposes for which you need this money? This Parliament, before it passes the Bill, must be told of the Justification for the cess at this rate. From our experience of the 8 years working, we find that not even half this amount is required. So, the cess should be cut down to half its present level. What is the justification for not cutting it down to half, unless and until you give us a Five Year Plan about it and say, "We are likely to receive on an average about Rs. 1 crore every year from the cess and here is our budget for about Rs. 5 crores during the next five years"? Even that will be covered by the surplus. So, there is absolutely no justification for the cess being levied at this rate.

Let us also understand that the equalisation is not going to put the Government at any considerable loss. According to their own estimate, they will lose by bringing down the rate, about Rs. 12½ lakhs, whereas they will save about Rs. 10 lakhs according to their own estimate as was put by the Minister, since the entire staff has now been transferred to the company and the expenditure will be borne by the company. Therefore, they are not going to lose anything. We demand from the Minister an explanation for the surplus, how it is going to be utilised, etc. We also want a justification from him as to the rate at which the present levy is being continued, what is his expectation about the estimated earnings from this and how he proposes to dispose of the surplus along with the money which he proposes to collect. These are the major points which I would like him to explain.

I may also draw the attention of the House to another very basic question. When I talked about the excise duty and its abolition, it is not in a lighter vein that I talked about. Now that they have transferred the salt works to a public enterprise, to a company which should be in the public sector, what is going to be the pattern of its running in the public sector, as a public sector company? We would like some information given to us about it. When they were talking about the abolition of the excise duty, we just understood that it will be on a no-profit-no-loss basis. Otherwise, there is no sense. When we say it is being run departmentally and we are abolishing the excise duty. it is clearly understood that it will be run on a no-profit-no-loss basis and whatever the cost, salt will be made available to the citizens at the cost price. All the time our emphasis has been that the company should be run efficiently and the administrative charges should be kept at the lowest.

Now that we have formed a company, is this company going to run for profit? Let us understand it. If it is going to run on a profit, then the question of the excise duty gets submerged into it. As a company, it may make a profit of 15 per cent. whether you levy the excise duty or not. It may make profits which are as good as your excise duty or any other things, and on that you earn income-tax, and the company makes money. It appears to me that it is quite understood by the Government that this company is to run on a certain amount of profit. I want some light to be thrown on this aspect, because, only the day before yesterday, my hon. friend laid a statement on the Table of the House regarding the agreement which has been arrived at between the Centre and the Rajsthan Government. They had appoint-

ed Shri V. T. Krishnamachari as the arbitrator and he had given a certain award. The resolution has been drawn up which is acceptable both to the Central Government and the Rajasthan Government. A copy of that resolution was laid on the Table of the House. I have got it in my portfolio. I am yet to understand the implication of it, before I ask for any discussion about it. That agreement, in an implied manner, is very much connected with the present question. They say that they have given to the Rajasthan Government Rs 5½ lakhs by way of lease money. When I was talking about the cess, I was, as a matter of fact, speaking against the interests of the Rajasthan Government indirectly, because all this money is supposed to go to the company and the company is owned by the Rajasthan Government to the extent of 45 per cent. of the shares. But when all-India questions are concerned, and when the interests of the citizens are involved, and where a sense of responsibility and honesty are concerned, we have to give the facts, and I have done so, whether it is in the interests of the Rajasthan State or not.

Now, under the resolution which they have framed and a copy of which has been placed on the Table of the House, we understand that a lease money of Rs. 5½ lakhs will continue, apart from any other amount that the company may get. I think it is anticipated that this company will make a profit of about Rs. 30 lakhs to Rs. 40 lakhs and it may float another company also.

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is only a treaty or agreement between two Governments and so the concern, as a public limited company, has nothing to do with it.

Shri Tyagi: Is there any limit on the rate of profit that it may make?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It may make the maximum profit if we want to run it as a public sector commercial company.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Now, there is absolutely no meaning for the excise duty on salt because you are going to make profit on it, and you are going to make it avaliable to the citizens at a particular price which suits you. I do not know how it is going to cost. I want to understand the implications of it. The Rajasthan Government is supposed to make, through the 45 per cent. share, something like Rs. 18 to Rs. 20 lakhs a year. I hope so, or, perhaps they are being deprived of that amount, the annual earnings. Let us clearly understand what is implied in all this We would like to have a clear picture of the whole thing, because all these questions are indirectly and incidentally connected with this Bill. I hope the hon. Minister will clarify these two points as also the implications about which I have sought a clarification.

Shri Tyagi: Sir, I want one clarification. I am not making a speech. After all salt is consumed by everybody, and therefore, I would like to know whether the Minister is now in a position to assure the House that the price of salt will not be allowed to rise to more than what it is today with this duty. He says any amount of profit can be made.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member perhaps came to the House much later during this discussion. It was said that there is no extra duty. It is is only equalisation so far as the private sector and the public sector are concerned.

Shri Manubhai Shah: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the outset I must apolcgise to the House, because even though I was present in the House right from the morning, at the appropriate time I was away for a little while. I am extremely sorry for it.

I thought that this Bill was so innocuous and simple excepting the fact that, so to say, it puts the public sector undertaking on a par with the rest of the private sector enterprises

[Shri Manubhai Shah]

in salt in this country. May I remind the House that more than 80 per cent of India's salt is being produced by numerous salt works, small, big and medium-sized, in the co-operative and private sectors? Therefore, it was but fair to the public sector undertakings that they should not be charged at any higher rate of duty or cess than the private sector undertakings of the same type.

Simultaneously, I must also clarify one thing, because there has been some doubt expressed in the country that the concessions or total exemption of cess to the small-scale salt works which are under the Act already existing and the co-operative salt societies are being interfered with or are being withdrawn. It is not so. Because I have received many telegrams and representations, I must take this opportunity to clarify that the existing exemptions to the salt co-operative manufacturing societies and to the small-scale producers continue as before. We do not mean by this Act to withdraw the concession or exemption.

Secondly, the question arose that this is in the nature of a duty which has to be utilised for a particular, specific purpose. Clause 3 of the Central Salt Cess Act, 1953 makes it clear that this is not a funded cess in the normal sense of a specific duty or tax. It is pure and simple an excise duty at nominal charge. The words which have been used very carefully by Parliament in clause 3 of this Act are as follows:

> "The proceeds of the duty levied under this Act, reduced by the cost of collection as determined by the Central Government shall, if Parliament by appropriation made by law in this behalf so provides, be utilised on all or any of the following objectives:"

Therefore, we come to the House every year for certain appropriations to be made as in the Act and the Government is duty bound under the law to utilise those amounts of appropriation as a first charge for those things. If the Parliament appropriates the whole amount of the duty, it has to be spent on those things and not any other thing. If Parliament decides to appropriate half or one-third, whatever is the provision in the budget, that shall be the first charge on the proceeds of the duty. It is so well stipulated in the law that I thought there should be no misunderstanding, because it is so clear. It is not a developmental cess or a funded cess or commodity duty. This is an excise duty and after deduction of the departmental and other expenditure on the salt department the amount out of the balance shall have to be spent for those specific purposes for which the Parliament appropriates such an amount.

Shri Ranga: Instead of merely speaking in a legalistic manner, Shri Mathur made the suggestion, why not treat this thing also in the same way as the commodity cess and take necessary steps at the earliest possible stage to see that whatever is collected could be made use of only for those specific purposes and the surplus being merged in general revenues.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: I want him to explain why the cess was levied.

Shri Manubhai Shah: I am tracing the background. One hon. Member may have one particular intention and another hon. Member some other intention. I am just explaining so that there may not be a misunderstanding that something contrary to the wishes of this House is being done, when the Act of Parliament has prescribed that this shall be the first charge. The history of the cess is this. When Mahatma Gandhi launched the movement for freedom of every individual to produce salt without let or hindrance, that became a national

symbol. At that time, the cost of production was less than 2 annas a Bengal maund in 1926 or 1930 when Indian labour was being under-paid and the cost of living also was so low. It was I anna per maund in my area. It was actually dust cheap. There was an excise duty levied called the salt cess which was Rs. 1-5-0 to Rs. 1-9-0 a Bengal maund, almost 10 to 20 times the cost of production, which was out of all proportion, on a cheap commodity of daily use.

Therefore, the House will appreciate that when India wrested freedom from the British yoke, the first thing we had to symbolise was the abolition of the salt tax, which was really the most pernicious tax on this commodity of daily use by the common man. In order to see that the broad development of this industry may not suffer, the Parliament and Government decided that it may be converted into a small nominal excise duty of 2 annas a Bengal maund. One can appreciate that compared to the present cost of production of 10 to 12 annas a Bengal maund, 2 annas a Bengal maund is not something which is out of all proportion. It is a small developmental cess. That is why this reduction took place without complete abolition.

One might say that it should have been abolished completely or a little more excise duty should have been levied. But 2 annas per maund was the cess levied. This is one of the industries where we have made phenomenal progress in the last ten years with the help of the fund, without the help of the fund, with other economic policies of the Government, with successive Plans and the physical and financial environments created by the Government of India and the people of this country. With all this, the salt industry has recorded a phenomenal rise in production. I may remind the House that when Bapuji launched the satyagraha and later on, we were a net importer of salt. ½ to 1 million tons of salt from Aden and British salt works in Africa and other colonies were being continuously imported. That was where the Indian self-respect was being hurt. Here is a vast sub-continent with maritime States and 3000 and odd miles of coastline where the solar evaporation is one of the best in the world and where we can produce 50 to 100 tons of salt per acre, and we were being denied the basic right to produce salt which is the common man's commodity. That is where we fought against it and got out of it. Ultimately, today we are surplus in salt. More than half a million tons of salt are being exported. That is what freedom has done to this country. From a net importing country due to artificial restrictions and suffocation of Indian enterprise by foreign masters, when we became masters of the country, we transformed our economy and we are now a net exporter of salt.

We are taking every step to see that this industry is put on very sound and basically strong foundations. We are taking several steps. The Salt Committee to which Shri Kasliwal referred, of which I had the privilege to be the Chairman, went into all aspects of salt development and recommended the Constitution of an autonomous statutory Central Salt Board. For that purpose, it shall be my privilege very soon to bring an Act or whatever measure is necessary before the House. We are trying to give them the fund —Salt Development Fund—as part of the Board's activity. That Board will advance loans to co-operative societies primarily, because our idea is that slowly the small salt works should be combined into co-operatives if they so desire. Even otherwise, we shall give loans to small, medium and large-scale salt works. Hitherto the assistance given was a meagre amount. Now more liberal loans will be given out of the development fund.

We also propose to earmark or specify certain basic labour welfare activities. Just like the labour in tea gardens, jute labour and mining

[Shri Manubhai Shah]

labour, the salt labour has not got a fair deal in the past. Therefore, on the lines of coal mines labour welfare and various other types of developmental procedures, we propose to lay down a proper programme, as Shri Mathur was saying, from five years to five years, so that we can build some good houses for the salt workers, good roads and provide for good drinking water. In a salt area, drinking water is one of the greatest problems. Drinking water is not available for miles. We want to provide proper communications there. As I said, we shall spend Rs. 20 lakhs from this fund and if necessary we shall even exceed it and take the money from the general exchequer for these things.

On the one hand, there will be the Central Salt Board with powers to advance loans to private sector and public sector salt industries, co-operative societies and small-scale units. On the other, we shall introduce welfare measures through the utilisation of the money allotted to this development fund.

A question was asked as to how much we are receiving from this. We receive every year about Rs. 75 lakhs to Rs. 85 lakhs because we are producing 3·5 million tons of salt and that can be multiplied by 2 annas per maund. As the production goes up, naturally the cess revenue will be larger and larger. To that extent, the general exchequer also will benefit, because the planned activities are going on. The railways move the salt and so there is production of wagons and all these have to be developed.

Shri Ranga: Why not fund it for that specific purpose?

Shri Manubhai Shah: There is no funding in this. This is a source of revenue to the State out of which the first charge will be the specific purpose already mentioned. If the Parliament is pleased to appropriate more funds and makes an amendment....

Shri Ranga: Why don't you come forward with a proposal?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I have explained that the Central Salt Board will make out schemes for the development of the salt industry. If the House sees the document of the third Plan which was presented here, it will find that from 3·5 million tons, we have raised the target to 6 million tons of salt in the Third Five Year Plan. We might reach 5½ million tons or we might reach even 6 million tons, and it is my pleasure to mention here that in the First Five Year Plan, even before the first year of the First Five Year Plan was out, this industry completed its target; that is to say, in the very first year of the First Five Year Plan the target set for salt industry in the First Five Year Plan was accomplished.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Does that follow that the targets were wrongly fixed or the industry made a tremendous progress?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The industry made a tremendous progress. From the position of a net importer we became self-sufficient, and from self-sufficiency we have become an exporter. That shows the development that has taken place.

Again, we want to go in for better quality; that is to say, we will make more and more industrial salt, we will make more specialised salt. My hon. friend was suggesting that edible salt for human consumption should be exempted and industrial salt should be charged. In that there is a great difficulty. Every salt work produces different categories of salt. It is impossible to distinguish easily one from the other, and if any attempt is made it will only result in more confusion than in saving a particular type of salt from paying the duty, because a particular salt works may be producing 20 to 30 per cent industrial salt, a certain percentage of a particular type of salt required for cattle feed, a third category which is needed by

normal consumers and a fourth category which may be several types of by products in which salt also may be there.

Therefore, when our duty is so small and the amounts involved are not so large and when most of our activities are developmental oriented, I do beg of the House to accept my suggestion that it is not necessary to have any exeption for any particular variety, which it will also be difficult to implement at the administrative level.

These are, Sir, the broad aspects. What we seek just now is to do nothing else. It should have been done, as Shri Kasliwal said, perhaps one year earlier. It was in 1959 that the Salt Committee presented its report. Perhaps we would have come earlier, but it took a little time to consider all the other aspects. Today we seek to place the public sector undertakings of the Government of India on a par with similar private sector undertakings.

The question now remains about profit. The Hindustan Salt Company also will be—the policy is as I was urging, and what Shri Tyagi perhaps thought was right or was not right—like any other commercial enterprise be judged mercilessly on the economic purpose and results. We do not want any public sector undertaking to have also a charitable motive or a philenthropic motive. For the social motive the Government is there. If any control or any rationing in respect of distribution of salt is to be done, it is for the Central Government to take it up. How can a small public sector undertaking which is put on a par with 80 or 85 per cent. private sector undertakings be expected to be a source of social justice or the various types of distribution measures? We are not going to let any public sector undertaking to be a sort of a 'sick baby' or something like that which does not get economic and commercial support. We will judge the Hindustan Salt Company also on pure commercial standards like any other private sector or public sector company.

Also, this company will pay all taxes like other companies—income-tax, if there is any sales tax, local taxes or octroi etc. There is no exemption attached to this company. Let there be no feeling in the minds of anybody that we are trying to secure certain concessions for the public sector undertakings as compared to competitive private sector undertakings.

Incidentally, the cess of 3¼ annas was levied on government salt works because it was assessed that the sum of 1¼ annas is the cost of overhead staff which otherwise was being debited to the revenue expenditure. That is to say, the Government sought to recover from the salt department a cess of 2 annas plus 1¼ annas to compensate for overall expenditure in the salt department. Now that the entire staff goes to them, the company cannot be loaded with two types of liabilities—one to pay out of its coffers all expenses for pay and allowances of the staff which has gone to them, and the other to pay over and above that 1¼ annas extra to the Central Government. We have transferred all the staff, and as mentioned earlier in my speech, out of the loss, which will be there due to reduction of cess, of about Rs. 12·75 lakhs to the Central Government—by reducing the cess from 3¼ annas to 2 annas—the total expenditure transferred to the company is more than Rs. 10 lakhs, and over and above that the company will pay income-tax which the department was not paying. So neither the company will be at a loss nor is the Government going to suffer any loss because of this measure. It is only putting them on a par, on a competitive basis, so that the House can then judge the performance of the Hindustan Salt Company on a competitive basis with any other private sector large-scale salt manufacturer.

Then there is a last point which is not relevant to this Bill, and that is about the award which I laid on the Table of the House day before yester-

[Shri Manubhai Shah]

day. That, Sir, is the end of the treaty between the former princely rulers in this country and the Central Government then constituted. As soon as the national Government came there was an understanding between the part B State of Rajasthan and the Central Government under the scheme prepared by the Federal Financial Integration Committee which was presided over by Shri V. T. Krishnamachari. Then they stipulated certain payments to be made by the Central Government to the Rajasthan Government. There were so many clauses in that which were vague. There were many stipulations which both the Governments thought were out of date. Therefore, we discussed it with the Rajasthan Government, and with the joint consent of both the Governments an arbitrator was appointed. Shri V. T. Krishnamachari was appointed as the arbitrator, whose award I have placed before the House. According to that royalties and other charges are being extinguished. The right of the State of Rajasthan to levy any further cess or charge on the Central Government salt works is also being extinguished. According to the award, they will get for 99 years lease a sum of Rs. 5½ lakhs per annum as land rent etc., plus 40 per cent free shares in a new company which is to be established in the public sector by the Central Government to manage the Sambhar salt works. That is to say, in lieu of extinguishing all the treaty rights and all privileges flowing therefrom, the Central Government will compensate the Rajasthan Government by giving 40 per cent of the profits on investments and 40 per cent. of capital assets of this new company. So it is not to be judged only by what accrues to them as profit on 40 per cent shares from year to year, because they also become owners up to 40 per cent of the fixed assets.

Shri Harish Chandra Mahutr: What is the income anticipated?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It will be too difficult for me to judge at this juncture. As I said earlier, as much commercial profit as they can make consistent with the objective character of the company and quality of the product, they will try to make. But as far as I know, both the Governments have accepted that it is a very fair award and it puts a nationalised undertaking in place of a commercial business which was there by means of treaty rights.

We, Sir, also propose very soon to constitute the Sambhar Salt Development Company or Corporation—whatever name we can give—wherein there will be directors of both the Central Government and the Rajasthan Government. The award says that there should be a minimum of two directors from the Rajasthan Government and 40 per cent of paid-up capital of the company, and whenever the capital goes on increasing we will continue to issue in favour of the Rajasthan Government free shares as given in the award.

The award is fully saisfactory. I can give this assurance to the House and, particularly, to the Members from Rajasthan State, that the award is fully satisfactory. We have also felt it our duty to see that this new company, the Hindustan Salt Company, will endeavour to develop in the public sector whatever industries we can start in that State, because the salt resources of Sambhar is a real national resources. Apart from that, the other salt works of Rajasthan and the country shall receive from the Central Government and this fund made from the cess all the wherewithal and encouragement for promotion of production of salt and its byproducts.

With these words, Sir, I beg to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Salt Cess Act, 1953, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are no amendments. I shall put all the clauses together. The question is:

"That clauses 1 to 4, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 1 to 4, the Enacting Formula and the Tital were added to the Bill.

Shri Manubhai Shah: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill be passed."

Shri Ranga: Sir, I wish to repeat the suggestion made by my hon. friend Shri Harish Chandra Mathur and elaborated by myself. It is a pity that the hon. Minister would not take note of the suggestions we have made. We would like the Government to take as early an opportunity as possible to come forward with necessary legislative proposals for establishing the same kind of a board with similar functions as we find in the case of the Central Oilseeds Committee and the Indian Central Cotton Committee, so that whatever funds come to be collected as a result of this cess would come to be funded separately and would be utilised for the promotion of the purposes for which the Parliament under the inspiration of the then Congress leadership had given its sanction.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: I want to say a word. Whatever be the form of the 1953 Act, it is conceded even by the hon. Minister during his speech that the only justification for this cess was developmental purpose. May I know whether there was any other justification or they have justified the Act on the ground that they wanted something for the exchequer?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I read out the clause and, as to the intention of Parliament, I also mentioned that it is in the nature of excise duty a revenue duty. There are some other developmental works, apart from the salt industry. For example, there is increase in transport, communication, electricity and other activities

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be apssed."

The motion was adopted.

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15 41 hrs.

THE MATERNITY BENEFIT BILL

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I beg to move:*

"That the Bill to regulate the employment of women in certain establishments for certain periods before and after childbirth and to provide for maternity benefit and certain other benefits, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

Hon. Members would have noticed that the Joint Committee has suggested a number of improvements. The scope of the Bill has been somewhat enlarged and the quantum of cash benefits increased by including incentive bonus in the definition of "wages", as also by raising the minimum to Re. 1/-. The calculation of "average daily wage" for three months instead of 12 months, as originally proposed, will also be to the advantage of the beneficiaries. The "qualifying period" has been changed to 160 days of actual work from 240 days of employment, as proposed in the original Bill. A special provision has been included so as to ensure a measure of relief to the child in the event of the mother's death during delivery or within six weeks thereafter. Tre clause concerning protection of employment during pregnancy has also been considerably

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri Abid Ali]

strengthened. I have no doubt that these improvements will be welcomed by all sections of the House. I commend the Bill for consideration.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

> "That the Bill to regulate the employment of women in certain establishments for certain periods before and after child-birth and to provide for maternity benefit and certain other benefits, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat): Sir, this Maternity Benefit Bill has been long outstanding and, actually, for quite some time we had only a non-official Bill in my name. Later on, in answer to questions, the hon. Minister assured us that model rules have been framed and were being circulated throughout the country. That, again, took some time and, later on, this Bill has come, not a day too soon.

Though the Constitution has laid down equality of men and women, at the same time, it has provided that there will be certain circumstances in which special protection will have to be given to mother and child, and this Bill covers such contingencies. Now the complication arises because in the labour field what has happened in recent years is that in the traditional industries where women are employed, the more the social measures Government have passed for the working classes, the greater has been the attack on the employment of women because, till then, the employers looked upon women as a source of cheap labour. Therefore, it has to be very well guaranteed that the passing of this all India Maternity Benefit Bill will not further result in the lessening of the number of women employed.

As we all know, the International Labour Organisation had asked all its member Governments to ratify Convention No. 103. But, up till now, Government have not ratified it. But, at least this much has been done that at long last we now have the all India labour legislation on this point while, in the case of equal pay for equal work, that is, Convention No. 100, whilst there has been ratification of the convention, the law which should be implemented has not been passed. So, in this particular case, though the convention has not been ratified, it is at least good that we have now an all-India labour legislation.

But one of the things that we had very much wanted was that this all India Maternity Benefit Bill should make available the benefits arising out of this legislation to those large sections of women who have not, up till now, been covered by it; that is to say, those large numbers of women who are working in commercial establishments, in educational institutions and hospitals, those who are well-known as white-collard workers. In recent years the Ministry of Labour has undertaken a survey of the number of women employed in various sectors and it has come to the conclusions that whereas, on the one hand, women who were working in the traditional factories of jute, textiles and mines has come down, the number of women white-collared workers has gone up. Yet, these very women who are working in commercial establishments as clerks, in hospitals as nurses and in schools as teachers, they are not going to be covered under the terms of the Maternity Benefit Bill which we are now passing. Therefore, this is one of the glaring defects of this Bill. We have pressed for it in the Joint Committee and we will press it again here, because there are large numbers of women working in the white-collared profession.

Then, we have made another suggestion that the workers working in the seasonal factories should also be

included within the province of this Bill. Because, out of the total labour force, there are some seasonal occupations or factories which employ a very large number of women workers. For example, take tobacco. The number of women working in the sugar industry is not very high, but the number of women employees in the tobacco industry is quite high. Therefore, we wanted that the women employees of seasonal factories and occupations should also be covered by this enactment. Therefore, during the clause by clause consideration, I propose to move an amendment suggesting that the women working in seasonal factories should also be made eligible, if not for the full benefits, at least for proportional benefits.

Then, it is a welcome thing, as the hon. Minister has pointed out, that the qualifying period has been reduced from 240 to 160 days. But I should like to point out that it should be only 150 days. Because, in the West Bengal Maternity Benefit Act, which applies to the tea plantations, it is already only 150 days. When such a benefit is available in some areas in some States to some industries, it should be made available to the rest of India. I have an amendment on this subject and, even though I have not moved it, I would like to place it before this House. Besides the seasonal factories, where we have stated that we would like the qualifying period to be lowered and the proportionate benefits, if not full benefits, given to the women workers, though I have not moved my amendment, I should like the House and the hon. Minister to consider once more whether in the case of those occupations where women have to work in rather inclement weather the qualifying period of 150 days is not rather high. For example, take the tea plantations, specially in Darjeeling area, where the women have to work in high hills in very inclement weather, specially during the monsoons when the first flush of tea picking takes place.

A very large percentage of women fall ill and cannot often qualify for this 150 days period. For this reason, it is really right to consider it from all points of view. I feel that I should urge upon the hon. Minister to consider that in industries where the women have to work in such inclement weather, for example, in plantations and in mines, it would be a good thing if we reduce the qualifying period for maternity benefit to 100 days so that they actually qualify for full benefits. This is one very important point which I wanted to place before this House.

Before I go on to other points, I should like to point out what is stated in Convention 103 of the International Labour Organisation. Clause 3 of this Convention says:

> ".....the term 'non-industrial occupations' includes all occupations which are carried on in or in connection with the following undertakings or services, whether public or private:
>
> (a) commercial establishments;
>
> (b) postal and telecommunication services;
>
> (c) establishments and administrative services in which the persons employed are mainly engaged in clerical work;
>
> (d) newspaper undertakings;
>
> (e) hotels, boarding houses, restaurants, clubs, cafes and other refreshment houses;
>
> (f) establishments for the treatment and care of the sick, infirm or destitute and of orphans;
>
> (g) theatres and places of public entertainment;
>
> (h) domestic work for wages in private households;
>
> and any other non-industrial occupations.....".

[Shrimati Renu Chakravartty]

In clause 4 it says:

> ".....the term 'agricultural occupations' includes all occupations carried on in agricultural undertakings, including plantations and large-scale industrialised agricultural undertakings."

So, from both these clauses it is clear that the Convention had aimed at applying the maternity benefits to the largest sections of women working in all these establishments. Specially for plantations I would urge once again that this qualifying period should be reduced particularly in areas where the women have to work in very inclement weather.

Regarding the rate of cash benefit there was the ILO Recommendation 95. Besides the Convention 103, there was Recommendation 95 concerning maternity protection. It shows that both regarding the rate of cash benefit and the type of medical benefit what we should try to make available. There it says:

> "Wherever practicable the cash benefits to be granted.... should be fixed at a higher rate than the minimum standard provided in the Convention, equalling, where practicable, 100 per cent. of the woman's previous earnings taken into account for the purpose of computing benefits."

The hon. Minister has stated that the original Bill was even much worse from the point of view of the rates. Now at least a minimum of Re. 1/- has been proposed by the Joint Committee. It has also added incentive bonus for computing the total benefit which may be made available to the workers. But it is obvious when we see sub-clause (2) of I.L.O. recommendations recommendation of what medical benefits we should try to make available to women so that both the child and the mother are well protected. It says in this sub-clause (2):

> ".....general practitioner and specialist out-patient and in-patient care, including domiciliary visiting; dental care; the care given by qualified midwives and other maternity services at home or in hospital; nursing care at home or in hospital or other medical institutions; maintenance in hospitals or other medical institutions;" etc.

But we see that we do not give 100 per cent even what medical benefits a woman earns at a period of time when she needs the greatest care both for herself and for her child. In any case, I feel that this minimum of Re. 1/- is still very low. Although in the Joint Committee we had moved for making it Rs. 2/-, I think there are nevertheless some industries which already pay more than Re. 1/- and I think that it would be but fair, if we want to guarantee some minimum health conditions for the child and the mother in these days when prices are high and when it is very difficult for women working in very outlandish places to get proper medical care and facilities, that we should at least move for the minimum daily rate to be increased to Rs. 1/8/-.

We have also felt that whilst it is welcome that we have added the incentive bonus for computing the amount of benefit to be given, it would be a good thing if we could also add overtime earnings, night allowance and similar allowances because, after all, these also are very legitimate parts of her wage which she has earned at great cost. Therefore, I think, that after bonus we should add the overtime earnings, night allowances, and similar allowances. That is a thing which, I think, we should provide for.

Regarding the question of medical benefit, in the original Bill as also in

the Joint Committee, we have recommended Rs. 25/- as medical bonus. I have before me the picture of the tea gardens. Originally in our Plantation Labour Act there was a labour welfare clause. There was also a clause which laid down that medical facilities should be made available. There was specially the question of group hospitals etc. The medical aid clause of the Plantation Labour Act had laid down certain treatment for certain diseases and there was a clear indication as to what a well-equipped hospital was. But take, for instance, the Duars which are in the foothills of the Himalayas in North Bengal where we have a very large number of tea gardens. Actually in the Nagarkata area there is only one hospital for 14 tea gardens in this whole area which has about 154 tea gardens. We are told that under the West Bengal Rules it is not necessary for the plantations to make available hospitals; rather, the Rules say that the civil hospitals will cater for this. In this whole area there is only one big civil hospital. That is in Jalpaiguri Town. The hon. Deputy Minister may have gone to those areas of ours in North Bengal and may have seen how farflung these places are and how it is an impossibility for these women to get any kind of maternity care in hospitals by coming down all the way to Jalpaiguri.

Therefore if medical facilities are not made available, according to the Plantation Labour Act, and as now that will be left as an optional thing for the employers, it is only right that we should increase this medical bonus from Rs. 25/- to a minimum of Rs. 100/-. Of course, there are other industries also about which we can talk. I can talk with some knowledge of the conditions in which women work, for example, right in the interior where iron ore and manganese ore etc. are being mined. There also it is very, very difficult to get medical facilities. Although these employers are actually making such profits and exports are going up, medical facilities in the shape of hospitals or easily available medical facilities or medicines are almost non-existent in the very interior mines. Therefore this medical bonus, I feel, we should try to increase.

16 hrs.

Now I come to a very important point, namely, the question of dismissal. This question of dismissals is a key thing. What has happened in the past? We know that in the past there have been so many cases, even in our own Darjeeling area, in plantations and in other areas specially in the very interior areas where the trade union movement has not yet become very strong or vocal where women are denied this right. Through this Bill we have tried to tackle that question to a certain extent. In clause 12 we have said:

> "When a woman absents herself from work in accordance with the provisions of this Act, it shall be unlawful for her employer to discharge or dismiss her during or on account of such absence or to give notice of discharge or dismissal on such a day that the notice will expire during such absence,.....".

But it has left one big loop-hole, we feel. And that is the proviso to subclause (2) where dismissal is permitted if by order in writing the woman is told that she is guilty of gross misconduct. I am reminded of a clause which we could not detect in the case of the Marriage and Divorce Bill where a woman need not be given alimony or the benefit of what is guaranteed by the law if anybody could prove that she is "unchaste." In the same way this question of 'gross misconduct' is a very vague thing. If there is gross misconduct, surely it is a matter for industrial dispute and it can be dealt with as an industrial dispute with all the machinery available to a man or a woman. On a charge of misconduct why should it be that the woman's right to

[Shrimati Renu Chakravartty]

have maternity benefits be jeopardised? If the employer in writing communicates to the woman that she is guilty of gross misconduct under such and such circumstances, then she need not be paid maternity benefit. Of course, it may be argued that if there is an industrial dispute and if later on it is proved that this was a wrong contention and that there was no case of gross misconduct, naturally the maternity benefit will be paid to her. But at the time when she needs the money she is not able to get it and the protection of the health of the mother and the child, which is the main object of this measure, is jeopardised. So, this is one loop-hole which we have left, and I feel it will be a loop-hole which will be seized upon by many employers to prevent the woman from getting maternity benefit or from applying for maternity benefit and putting pressure upon her.

Because of this fear we have tabled an amendment by which we have tried to increase the powers of the Inspector. The duty of the inspector, as far as I can make out from what we have legislated over here, is chiefly to see that the benefits are paid properly and in time and he has the power to order that it be computed properly and paid. We have tabled an amendment suggesting that the Inspector should also have put before him all the cases of dismissal.

I presume that the hon. Minister will not yield on this point about 'gross misconduct'. Suppose dismissal takes place. At least let there be some speedy way in which this may be dealt with, whether there should be payment immediately or not. So it should be that every case of dismissal shall be referred to the Inspector for decision and the Inspector shall decide upon it and he may have the right of reinstating the woman and giving payment of the benefit to her. This we have tabled as an amendment.

Then, in clause 26 power is given to the State Governments to waive, by notification, the provisions of this Bill if they think that there are establishments which provide benefits which are not less favourable than those provided in this Bill. In the first place, it would probably be better that this at least is made subject to the sanction of the Central Government, so that there may not be any extraneous pressure from certain powerful establishments to prevent the clauses or the powers given under this Bill from being exercised or put into execution in their industries. But it says also that they can exempt "the establishment or class of establishments from the operation of all or any of the provisions of this Act". Maybe, in respect of one or two clauses it may be beneficial; but in respect of other clauses it may not be so beneficial. But the State Government may waive all the clauses, whereas one or two clauses may be permitted actually to help the workers more favourably. Therefore, while I do say that since we have not brought everything on par and we have not by this legislation given the best benefits which are available in some industries, it is better to have an exemption clause, I would like to say that this exemption should be done with the permission of the Central Government.

The last point which I would like to stress again is this. As it is, huge numbers of women are kept outside the purview of this measure because they are falling into the category of casual and temporary workers. A very large number of women work as casual and temporary workers. If you see in the railways or in the iron ore contract labour or in the building industries, you will find that a very very large percentage of women are really working as casual labour and as temporary labour. And, as far as I can make out, they will not be qualified to get this benefit. As it is, this is what is happening. On top of

that, if we do not very carefully see and check this habit of the employers of retrenching women as soon as we pass social security laws, if Government does not keep a very strict watch on this, what is going to happen as we march along and as women demand more and more employment, because the economic conditions make it incumbent on them to take to some economic livelihood, we will find that they will be thrown out of their jobs and the social security measures will remain a dead letter; rather they will act against the interests of the women workers, because it will be a question of social security *versus* the retention of jobs.

Therefore this question has to be very carefully kept in view and we should impress upon the Government that whilst this Maternity Benefit Bill is a step in the right direction. Yet this has to be kept very close watch upon, that we do not permit the employers to retrench or to dismiss workers because they would rather have cheap labour than implementating the social security laws and that we secure for the women and children a healthy life as is the idea behind the passing of this Maternity Benefit Bill.

Shri Nanjappan (Nilgiris): I welcome the Bill as it has emerged from the Joint Committee because it is an improvement over the original Bill. Yet it is capable of further improvement.

On page 3 of the Bill "miscarriage" is defined. It says: "Miscarriage" means expulsion of the contents of a pregnant uterus at any period prior to or during the twenty-sixth week of pregnancy. "Miscarriage" itself is a loose term. There may be a case of abortion. But that word is omitted here. This cannot at all be utilised in the case of an abortion which takes place within three months of pregnancy. What is said here is miscarriage prior to or during the twenty-sixth week of pregnancy. I want a clarification on this. In the very same clause, there is a penal clause—

> "but does not include any miscarriage, the causing of which is punishable under the Indian Penal Code;"

I feel this should not be there. This should be omitted. Because, this clause does not apply to pregnancy terminating after 26 weeks. Normally pregnancy is for 280 days or 40 weeks. It does not apply to the latter portion of pregnancy when it is terminated, as it is illegal. This term 'miscarriage' is loosely used here and the penal clause is also not applied properly to any period of pregnancy. I want the hon. Minister to clarify these points in this clause. Again, this penal clause may be used as an instrument of harassment by any bad employer. When a woman in pregnancy deserves all sympathy, here is a penal clause put in so that any bad employer may harass a woman in difficulties. Even in that way, I think this last clause may be omitted.

Coming to page 4, clause 5, I have given an amendment to this clause. The Government has got a programme for family planning and they are going to spend nearly Rs. 25 crores for family planning. This clause here, I think, may contravene the programme of the Government. So, I have given this amendment that for the benefit, a woman should not have more than 4 children surviving. I think the Minister will agree. The family planners' limit is three children. But, I want to be a little more liberal and so I have given my amendment as four children surviving. If the House feels or the Minister feels that the number of children should be increased to five, I have no objection. Even if it is reduced to three children, I have no objection. I have given this amendment so that the programme of the Government should not be contravened by giving any amount of leniency to a woman to give birth to any number of children.

[Shri Nanjappan]

Next, I come to page 6, clause 8 which says provided that where the employer does not provide pre-natal or post-natal aids to a woman in pregnancy, Rs. 25 as medical bonus is to be given. I think for normal labour, this may be sufficient. But, in complicated cases, this may not be sufficient. Because, it is my experience in plantation labour, these workers work in very far-off remote places and they have to go very far, say nearly 50 or 60 miles, to get proper aid. In that case, even to convey a pregnant woman to such a long distance, Rs. 25 may not be sufficient. For medical aid, this will be very insufficient. By giving a sum of Rs. 25, the employer may think that he has done everything and he may not go to the help or a woman in labour, especially in difficult labour where she requires immediate attention by giving her all aid by way of transport and other facilities. That is why I have given an amendment even to this clause that in complicated cases, the actuals may be paid to the woman by way of transport and other expenses which she may incur during pregnancy. There may be cases which may require caesarian section, that is delivery by opening the abdomen. Such difficult cases have to be attended to in well equipped hospitals. The provision made here for Rs. 25 may not be sufficient. So, I say that the actuals may be paid to the lady in difficulty.

With these words, I conclude.

Shri Tangamani (Madurai): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, many of the points which I wanted to raise have already been covered by the hon. Lady Member Shrimati Renu Chakravartty. I would like to refer to certain points which she has left out, but for which I have also given notice of amendments.

I expected that the hon. Deputy Minister, when he introduced this Bill, will also elaborate the purpose for which this Bill was brought, the various State legislations which we have at present, how far we have deviated from the various State legislations, and how far our provisions are more favourable or less favourable than some of the State legislations. As the House is aware, originally, when this Bill was brought before this House, it was meant to reduce, as far as possible, the existing disparities in the various legislations in this country. The House knows that there are 13 legislations governing maternity benefits, from the year 1929 up to the year 1958: The Assam Maternity Benefit Act of 1944, the Bihar Maternity Benefit Act of 1947, the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act of 1929, the Kerala Maternity Benefit Act of 1957, the Madhya Pradesh Maternity Benefit Act of 1958, the Madras Maternity Benefit Act of 1934, the Mysore Maternity Benefit Act of 1959, the Orissa Maternity Benefit Act of 1953, the Punjab Maternity Benefit Act of 1943, the Rajasthan Maternity Benefit Act of 1953, the Utter Pradesh Maternity Benefit Act of 1938, the West Bengal Maternity Benefit Act of 1939 and also the West Bengal Maternity Benefit (Tea Estates) Act of 1948. As I have stated, there are 13 State legislations governing maternity benefit. There are also certain Central legislation, namely the Mines Maternity Benefit Act of 1941, the Employees State Insurance Act of 1948 and the Plantation Labour Act of 1951. If we take all these 16 legislations into consideration and compare how far this particular piece of legislation is advanced, it will be not only helpful to the industry and helpful to the various State Governments but also it will be very helpful to the State Governments who are now enforcing these Acts.

I would mention only a few things. This particular provision about medical bonus was conceived by the various State legislations also. I remember the Bihar and Punjab legislations have provided for Rs. 25.

Rightly it was pointed out by the previous speaker that in the present context, Rs. 25 will not be sufficient. The idea was there. When this idea has been accepted, although an amendment has not been moved in this particular form, I expect, during the second reading, the hon. Minister will be pleased to bring of his own an amendment to increase this medical bonus to Rs. 100. That would mean taking the spirit of the various State legislations and amending them with a view to making the Act uniform in the light of the experience of the various State Governments, and also with a view to carrying out the purpose for which this legislation has been brought forward. That is the first point that I would like to make.

16·21 hrs.

SHRIMATI RENU CHAKRAVARTTY *in the Chair*]

Next, I come to the question of misconduct. If you go through the discussions which took place in the Kerala Assembly with regard to the Kerala Maternity Bill, 1957, you will find that there also the question of misconduct was raised. Of course, I can anticipate the hon. Deputy Minister's reply; he might say that there is a remote reference to misconduct in the ILO Convention also. But that is not on all fours with the way the term 'misconduct' has been introduced here. I would like to refer to the Kerala Act in this connection. There it has been provided that the moment it is known that a woman worker is pregnant, the question of misconduct or the question of dismissal or the question of depriving her of any benefit does not arise, because the Kerala legislators have wanted to make it very clear that a woman worker must be treated in a more humane manner. That is the approach that they have adopted, and that was what I found when I had occasion to go through the debate that took place in the State Assembly when this particular Bill was before it. So, in the context of Indian conditions, that aspect must be taken into consideration. I recall how vehemently Shrimati Uma Nehru fought when the Bill was being referred to the Joint Committee by this House. Here, we are trying to give some benefit to a woman worker which is more in the nature of social security. Why should this Damocles's sword of misconduct be hanging on her? Why should she always be under the fear that she may be deprived of the benefit for no fault of hers simply because the particular employer may think that she has committed misconduct?

Rightly, it was pointed out that misconduct was an issue which had to be treated as an industrial dispute. This maternity benefit has nothing to do with industrial dispute and it has nothing to do with industrial relations. It is a question of social security. Because this worker is employed in an industry, we say that the industrial list, whether he may be private industrialist, or Government, if the industry is in the public sector, must confer this benefit on the worker, which is rightly in the nature of a social security benefit.

I have pointed out these things only to show how when we are trying to make these legislations uniform, we have not gone to the extent to which the State legislations have gone.

Shri Abid Ali: This is an advance as compared to the Kerala Act.

Shri Tangamani: I shall presently show that it is not an advance.

Shri Abid Ali: Since the hon. Member has referred to Kerala, I may point out that in the Kerala Act, leave for miscarriage is three weeks, but here we have provided 6 weeks; in the case of medical bonus, they have provided for only Rs. 10, but here we have provided for Rs. 25.

Shri Tangamani: Then, I shall point out another thing. In the Kerala Act, the period is 150 days of service during the preceding nine months, and

[Shri Tangamani]

the woman should have been on the rolls for nine months immediately preceding the date of notice. But what we have now provided is 160 days. So, it is not an advance, over the Kerala Act.

Shri Abid Ali: The hon. Member may see the second item also.

Shri Tangamani: It is not only Kerala which has been progressive, but Assam also has been progressive. In Assam also, the qualifying period is not 160 days as we are seeking to legislate here. There also, the qualifying period is 150 days. I do not want the Deputy Minister to feel touchy when I am referring to Kerala. There has been very good legislation undertaken there because the Communist Party was in power. My only point in referring to these Acts was to bring out the salient features of the various legislations which have been passed by the State Governments and to point out how in trying to frame a uniform legislation, we are now legislating in a way which does not go far in advance of what the States have done. In the Assam Act also, the qualifying period is 150 days, but here we are providing for a qualifying period of 160 days. That was the only limited purpose for which I referred to these State Acts.

Coming to the Bill in detail, the first point that I would like to deal with is in regard to the date on which the Bill will come into force. Clause 1 (3) reads thus:

> "It shall come into force on such date as may be notified in this behalf in the Official Gazette—
>
> (a) in relation to mines in the territories to which this Act extends, by the Central Government; and
>
> (b) in relation to other establishments in a State, by the State Government.".

A similar provision was there when the legislation for motor workers came up before the Joint Committee, and the Joint Committee rightly felt that this power should not be left in the hands of the State Governments only, but there must be some uniformity about it. That was why in the Bill that emerged from the Joint Committee in regard to the motor workers, it was decided that powers should be given to the Central Government to notify the date from which the Bill would come into force, and an amendment was made to that effect in the original Bill, so that the date from which the Bill would come into force would be a date which would be specified by the Central Government, whether or not the industry concerned came directly under the Central Government's jurisdiction. Likewise, when we are trying to bring forward a uniform Act applicable to the whole country, we could at least specify the date from which all the State Governments will start applying the benefits of this Act to the various beneficiaries.

My next point is in regard to seasonal factories. Enough has been said already about these seasonal factories. There is at least one salutary provision in the Bill as it has emerged from the Joint Committee. The original Bill gave absolute powers to the State Governments to exempt seasonal factories completely. Now, that provision is not there, because we have stated that the qualifying period is 160 days. As one of the previous speakers has pointed out, there are factories which are seasonal, as for instance, the coffee plantations. Tobacco plantations are also of a seasonal character. A large number of workers who are employed in the cotton ginning factories are also seasonal factories. Apart from the casual and other workers, there a large number of workers who are employed in these seasonal factories. In some places, we find that even sugar factories are seasonal factories. In the case of seasonal factories, it is impossible to expect the worker to com-

plete 160 days of service as the qualifying period. That is why we have suggested an amendment in this connection which can be taken up during the clause-by-clause consideration stage. We have suggested in that amendment that the qualifying period may be reduced to 100 days in the case of seasonal factories, instead of its remaining 150 or 160 as is proposed in the Bill as it has emerged from the Joint Committee.

I have also pointed out in my dissenting note that there are certain States like Yugoslavia, the Netherlands, Japan and China where there is no question of seasonal factories at all, and there is no question of any qualifying period at all.

I would like to mention also another lacuna in this Bill. There is absolutely no protection to a permanent worker. Although there is a worker who has been in service for several years, if she does not come within the qualification mentioned in the Bill, she will be deprived of the maternity benefit. The four States that I have mentioned have seen to it that irrespective of the qualifying period, provided that a worker can show that she is a permanent worker on the rolls, she will be entitled to the maternity benefit. So that provision is not here. Ours is only a very moderate demand that in the case of seasonal factories, the period should be 100 days, and it will meet the ends of justice.

There is one important point in regard to which there is not much scope in the Bill itself, namely, security of service. In the matter of security of service, all that we could provide for in the Joint Committee was clause 21 which says:

> "If any employer contravenes the provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder, he shall be punishable, with imprisonment which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees, or with both; and where the contravention is of any provision regarding maternity benefit"—

here the following provision has been added by the Joint Committee—

> "or regarding payment of any other amount and such maternity benefit or amount has not already been recovered, the court shall, in addition recover such maternity benefit or amount as if it were a fine and pay the same to the person entitled thereto."

This is a welcome provision. Under the original Bill, the maximum punishment for a defaulter was Rs. 500 or three months imprisonment. Now he has to pay the fine or undergo imprisonment, in addition to paying this benefit which is due to her under law. This is an important change which the Joint Committee has made. But what I was pointing out was that there is nothing in the Bill to met out any punishment to the employer if it is shown that the dismissal took place in order to avoid giving this benefit to the woman worker. It has to go as an industrial dispute and there may be rigmarole and other things there. Assuming that a particular worker was dismissed and a dispute was raised, probably the dispute will be resolved after two or three years. Now, will or will not the employer be compelled to pay the maternity benefit as if she were in employment? That is the point. I do not know if any tribunal has gone into this. There is no protective clause in this Bill which says that in case the dismissal has been proved to be vindicative or unjustified, the benefit to which she is entitled will be paid in any event, in which case it will have to be in the form of an advance payment to the aggrieved worker.

Another point on which I would like to seek information from the hon. Minister is whether in those industries where normally women are employed there is or there is not a ten-

[Shri Tangamani]

dency to reduce the number of women workers. In the part of the country from which I come, normally in the reeling and spinning departments, hundred per cent. complement will be women. But we find that from 100 per cent. it is in some units going down to 10 per cent. There are some units which do not employ women at all. The employer would openly ask: 'Why should I take another risk?', the risk being that in case of maternity, he will have to pay extra benefit.

There is something inherent in the national tradition of our country. In other countries, the cotton textile industry is looked upon as a light industry where 80—90 per cent. of the workers are women. In several parts of our country not developed industrially, where we do not have heavy industries, the textile industry appears to be a very heavy industry—although it is a very light industry. More than 60—70 per cent. of the workers are men. At least one or two departments were reserved for women; women having been used to hand-spinning and reeling, these departments were reserved for them. So women felt that they had a right to be employed in these departments. I know how in places like Coimbatore and Madurai there is anger when others are taken in the reeling department. So we find that women are being removed from a department which had been set apart for them for a number of years. Hence I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he could give us data regarding the trend in the employment of women in the departments which were, if I may say so, traditionally women's departments.

Shri Abid Ali: It is sufficiently known that they are decreasing.

Shri Tangamani: I would like to know in respect of certain departments which were exclusively reserved for women.

Shri Abid Ali: It is all published in the Labour Gazette.

Shri Tangamani: I would like to know whether after this Bill was introduced, there has been a tendency to decrease the complement of women labour.

Shri Abid Ali: I do not think there is such a substantial change.

Shri Tangamani: If that is so, I will be grateful. If there is a change, there is something seriously wrong in that we enact legislation here and those workers who are likely to be benefited are being retrenched in this way. If this comes about, it will be a serious matter. I know after this retrenchment is taking place. Large numbers of women workers are being retrenched. I can mention certain units. So in respect of one or two units, I wanted some information.

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): How does it matter either way? Instead of the wife, the husband or the son comes in. We see that every time the number of women in Parliament is rising and that of men is going down.

Shri Tangamani: Unfortunately, with the present cost of living, I do not think a family will be able to maintain itself with only the male member working. That is why the wife and daughter are compelled to work to make both ends meet. We have our joint family system. We are more or less forced to send our daughters and wives also for work and cumulatively we are able to make a living. That is why there is not much grumbling. We will find that in many of the units in this country, no man gets a minimum living wage. The hon. Deputy Minister also knows that. But the gap is being made in this way; in respect of one worker having to look after three or four people, two workers look after three people and balance the budget. This is beside the point. But I would like to know whether this tendency has been noticed by Government, that because of this legislation, many of the employers are resorting to retrenchment of women workers.

About the minimum rate of benefit, I must congratulate the Joint Committee on the norm adopted. This norm has been followed in some of the State legislations. Many State legislatures provided only 7/12th of the average wage or 5/12th of the average wage to be paid to the worker concerned. Although I would like the minimum to be raised to Rs. 2 or at least Rs. 1-8, I would congratulate the Joint Committee on fixing the average wage at the daily rate for the purpose of benefit to the women workers.

Another salutary provision in this Bill is the fixing of the average daily wage. Even in the Industrial Disputes Act the average is over a period of twelve months, but here it is over a period of three months prior to the worker claiming the benefit. Certain subsequent benefits extended to the workers are also salutary. There are many other points which I shall raise at the time of the second reading.

While I congratulate the Government for having brought this piece of legislation, I would like the hon. Minister and the House to pay attention to the fact that certain provisions which I have already indicated are not very progressive and that State legislations are much more progressive. I hope the Government will see to it that some of the amendments which have been tabled by hon. Members—and more amendments are likely to come—are accepted, so that more benefits as envisaged in certain States legislations will be extended to the workers and they would also not be deprived of whatever benefits they are now enjoying as a result of this legislation.

श्री रामसिंह भाई वर्मा (निमाड़) : श्रीमती जी, ज्वाइंट कमेटी की जो रिपोर्ट हाउस में पेश की गई थी और आज उस पर विचार किया जा रहा है । मैं उसका हार्दिक समर्थन करने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूं ।

इस लोकसभा के अन्दर अभी तक मजदूरों के सम्बन्ध में जितने भी कानून बने हैं उनको जब हम अपने सामने रखते हैं तो इतना प्रोग्रेसिव कोई कानून नहीं है जितना कि यह बिल सिलेक्ट कमेटी से आया है और जिसको हम कानूनी रूप देने जा रहे हैं । जो सेंटर के लेबर लाज में है बहुत से राज्यों के लेबर लाज उनसे आगे बढ़े हुए हैं और बहुत प्रोग्रेसिव हैं । लेकिन आज जिस कानून पर हम विचार कर रहे हैं इसके सम्बन्ध में कहा जा सकता है कि यह केन्द्र का कानून उद्योग व्यवसाय में काम करने वाली बहिनों के प्रति न्याय करने के लिये लाया गया है और इसके द्वारा यह सदन इन बहिनों के प्रति पूरा न्याय करने जा रहा है । और उनके प्रति पूरी सहानुभूति इस बिल के द्वारा दिखाई गई है । वैसे तो अभी तक सेंटर का ऐसा कोई कानून नहीं था कि उद्योग व्यवसाय में काम करने वाली बहिनों को प्रसूति का लाभ मिले । राज्यों में अपने-अपने कानून थे और उन कानूनों के अनुसार उनको कुछ लाभ मिल जाता था । आम तौर से देखते हैं कि जो लाभ इसमें दिये गये हैं और बताए गए हैं वह अन्य राज्यों के अन्दर बहिनों को कम मिलते थे उन्हें अधिक मिलेगा । लेकिन साथ ही इसमें यह ठहरा दिया गया है कि अगर किसी को जहां ज्यादा मिलता हो तो उसे वह तो मिलता ही रहेगा लेकिन जो इसमें दिया गया है उसमें कम किसीको नहीं मिलना चाहिये।

अभी हमारे कम्युनिस्ट भाई ने और उनके पहले हमारी कम्युनिस्ट बहिन ने कुछ बात कही। उन्होंने कहा कि १६० दिन की हाजिरी के बजाय उनको यह लाभ १५० दिन की हाजिरी पर ही मिलना चाहिए । वैसे जितने भी सेंटर के कानून हैं जिनमें श्रमिकों को लाभ देने की बात आयी है उनमें २४० दिन की हाजिरी होने पर ही उनको लाभ देने की व्यवस्था है। लेकिन यह पहला बिल है मैटरनिटी बैनीफिट देने के बारे में जिसको हम कानूनी रूप देने जा रहे हैं और जिसके अन्दर १६० हाजरी के दिन रखे गये हैं । लेकिन हमारे साथी ने और उनके पहले हमारी बहिन ने १५० दिन बताए हैं । मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता

[श्री रामसिंह भाई वर्मा]

हूं कि ज्वाइंट कमेटी में ये दोनों कम्युनिस्ट सज्जन विराजमान थे और दोनों सज्जनों ने भी जो नोट आफ डिस्सेंट दिया है उसमें १६० जो हाजरी के दिन रखे हैं उसका स्वागत किया है। यह तो ज्वाइंट कमेटी की रिपोर्ट में नोट आफ डिस्सेंट देने के बाद आफ्टर थाट है कि १५० दिन हों। यह तो उनको बाद मे विचार आया कि १५० दिन होने चाहिएं। १५० दिन का कानून बनने के बाद उनको यह विचार भी आ सकता है कि १०० दिन ही क्यों न होने चाहिएं। मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि जब इस बिल पर ज्वाइंट कमेटी में विचार हुआ तो ये सज्जन वहां उपस्थित थे और जो नोट आफ डिस्सेंट दिया है उसमें भी बराबर १६० दिन का स्वागत किया गया है। तो इनके द्वारा नोट आफ डिस्सेंट में उसका स्वागत करने के बाद अब उसका विरोध करना तो न्याय-संगत नहीं मालूम देता। दूसरी बात यह है कि बेनिफिट की दर क्या होनी चाहिए। ज्वाइंट कमेटी ने यह रखा है कि जो उनका तीन महीने का एवरेज वेतन हो उसके हिसाब से उन्हें ६ हफ्ते इधर और ६ हफ्ते उधर दिया जाए। यह भी न्यायसंगत बात है। दूसरे राज्यों के अन्दर जो बैनीफिट की रकम दी जाती है कहीं १२ आने है, कहीं दस आने हैं कहीं आठ आने हैं। यह नहीं देखा जाता कि उनका एवरेज वेतन क्या आता है। लेकिन इसके अन्दर यह ठहरा दिया गया है कि कम से कम एक रुपया तो प्रति दिन मिलना ही चाहिए। मैं मानता हूं कि यह न्यायपूर्ण बात है और बहुत ही अच्छी चीज है इस बिल के अन्दर जो कि हमारे हाउस के अन्दर आया है। इसलिए मुझे कहना पड़ता है कि जो १६० दिन रखे हैं वह बराबर है।

अभी भाषण में और नोट आफ डिस्सेंट में हमारे कम्युनिस्ट साथियों ने जापान और चीन की बात कही है। मैं तो कहता हूं कि आप रूस का उदाहरण लीजिए। वहां क्या है ? ९५ परसेंट बहिनें उद्योग में काम करती हैं और ९५ पर सेंट में से लगभग ९० पर सेंट क्वारिका हैं और जापान के अन्दर तो इन ९० परसेंट में से ९० परसेंट ही क्वारिकाएं मिलेंगी। क्वारकिाओं को रखने में एक मकसद है। वह मकसद यह है कि एक तो उनको मैटरनिटी बैनीफिट नहीं देना पड़ता। इसके अलावा बच्चों के लिए पालनघर होता है, बच्चों को माताएं बार बार दूध पलाने जाती हैं उसमें समय लगता है। क्वारिकाओं को रखने में यह समय बच जाता है। लेकिन हिन्दुस्तान की टैक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री के अन्दर श्री अटेरा ने टाइम एंड मोशन स्टडी करके यह निकाला है कि ८ घंटे में पुरुषों की ८० या ७५ परसेंट एफिसियेंसी होती है। लेकिन जो बहिनें वाइंडिंग और रीलिंग का काम करती हैं उनकी एफिसेंसी मुश्किल से ६० पर सेंट आती है। हमारे देश के अन्दर यह एक प्रथा चली आयी है कि हम क्वारिकाओं को कारखाने में काम करने के लिए नहीं भेजते। लेकिन वह बहनें जिनके कोई कमाने वाला नहीं होता उनको ही काम करने के लिए भेजा जाता है। जो विवाहिता बहिनें होती हैं उनको ही कारखानों में काम करने के लिए भेजा जाता है, लेकिन उनकी उतनी एफीशेंसी नहीं होती। नोट आफ डिस्सेंट में कहा गया है कि जापान में जो बहिनें काम करती हैं वह इसलिए हड़ताल करती हैं कि हमें शादी करने दो और वहां शादी इसलिए नहीं करने देते कि अगर वे शादी करेंगी तो उनके बच्चे होंगे, तो जो एफीशेंसी उद्योग के अन्दर मिलती है वह कम मिलेगी और दूसरे बैनीफिट भी देने होंगे। तो यह विचार करने की बात है।

मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि मैटरनिटी बैनीफिट का कानून बनने के पहले भी हमारे यहां राजबीमा योजना शुरू हुई, उसके अन्दर

भी अच्छा सेफगार्ड रखा गया था । मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि सारे उद्योग के अन्दर काम करने वाली हमारी बहनें कितनी हैं । लगभग ९८ हजार हमारी बहिनें हैं और उनमें मैटरनिटी बैनीफिट कितनी क्लेम करती हैं। जिन्होंने यह बैनीफिट क्लेम किया है उनकी संख्या ६५२३ है और उनमें से जितनों को यह बैनीफिट मिला उनकी संख्या ६०९९ है । तो मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि अगर तथ्यों को देखा जाए तो उद्योग व्यवसाय के अन्दर टोटल स्ट्रेंग्थ में से १० परसेंट बहिनें आती हैं जब कि दूसरे देशों में टोटल स्ट्रेंग्थ के अन्दर बहिनें ९० परसेंट आती हैं । इसलिए दूसरे देशों से हम अपने देश की तुलना नहीं कर सकते । अगर हम अपनी माताओं और बहिनों के साथ सहानुभूति रखते हैं तो हमें यह मानना चाहिए कि हमारे देश के रीति रिवाज और संस्कारों के अनुसार हमें विचार करना होगा और हमें ऐसा रुख नहीं अपनाना चाहिए कि जिन बहिनों के घर में कोई कमाने वाला नहीं, जिनका पति अपंग है, वह बहिनें काम करती हैं उन्हें भी कारखाने के बाहर जाना पड़े ।

16.50 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

देश की टैक्सटाइल इण्डस्ट्री में रीलिंग और वाइंडिंग के अन्दर जहां पहले सेंट परसेंट बाईयां रहती थीं आज उनकी तादाद घट कर पचास परसेंट रह गयी है और वहां पर यह एक ट्रेंड चल गया है कि बजाय औरतों के पुरुषों को रक्खा जाये । एम्पलायर्स अक्सर यह कोशिश करते है कि बाईयों की जगह मर्दों को रखते ह। मेरा यह निवेदन है कि आज यह बिल और ज्वाएंट कमेटी की रिपोर्ट हमारे सामने आई है मैं मानता हूं कि बहनों के साथ पूर्ण न्याय किया गया है । इसमें कोई शंका नहीं है ।

इसके बाद मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि जब हम बहनों के प्रति जो कि उद्योग व्यवसाय में काम करती हैं, न्याय करने के लिए गये हैं तो ऐसा न हो कि किसी के साथ अन्याय हो जाये । मैं सीजनल फैक्टरीज की बाबत कहना चाहूंगा कि वहां पर काम करने वाली बहनों के लिए भी यह नियम रखना कि उन्हें मैटरनिटी बेनीफिट तभी मिलेगा जब साल में १६० दिन की उनकी काम पर हाजिरी होगी उचित न होगा । अब इसके लिए माननीय मन्त्री को यह विचार करना होगा कि जो कारखाने १२ महीने चलते हैं उनके अन्दर काम करने वाली औरतों के वास्ते तो मैटरनिटी बेनीफिट देने के लिये १६० दिन की हाजिरी की शर्त समझ में आ सकती है लेकिन यह सीजनल फैक्टरीज कोई साल के बारह महीने तो चलती नहीं है साल में करीब ५ महीने चलती हैं तो उनके वास्ते भी यह १६० दिन की हाजिरी कहां तक न्यायसंगत होगी ? उनके लिए हाजिरी की शर्त १६० दिन से कम होनी चाहिए और १२ महीने के वास्ते जो आपने यह १६० दिन की हाजिरी की शर्त रक्खी है तो ५ महीने जो फैक्टरीज चलती हैं उनमें हाजिरी की शर्त उसी अनुपात से रखनी चाहिए और जाहिर है कि वहां के वास्ते यह १६० दिन की हाजिरी नहीं हो सकती है क्योंकि अगर सीजनल फैक्टरीज जो कि साल में पांच महीने चलती हैं उनमें काम करने वाली औरतों के वास्ते भी आप यह १६० दिन की हाजिरी की कैद रखते हैं तो जाहिर है कि वहां पर उनकी १६० दिन की हाजिरी होना असम्भव है और उनको मैटरनिटी बेनीफिट नहीं मिल सकेगा । इसलिए मेरा निवेदन है है कि उनके वास्ते हाजिरी की शर्त भी उसी अनुपात से होनी चाहिए ताकि उनको भी इसका फायदा मिल सके ।

मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि जीनिंग फैक्टरीज की संख्या हमारे देश में कम नहीं है और हम इस पोजीशन में हैं कि कोर्स और मीडियम काउंट का कौटन अपनी जरूरत के लिये रखकर हम एक्सपोर्ट भी करते हैं । देशकी जितनी भी जीनिंग

[श्री रामसिंह भाई वर्मा]

फैक्टरीज हैं उनकी चखियां के ऊपर काम करने वाली सेंट परसेंट महिलाएं हैं और चूंकि वह फैक्टरीज ५ महीने चलती हैं और यदि हम यह कैद १६० दिन की हाजिरी की उनके लिए भी रखते हैं तो यह उन बाईयों के साथ अन्याय होगा और १६० दिन की हाजिरी की शर्त्त लगी होने के कारण उनको मैटरनिटी बेनीफिट मिलने में दिक्कत पड़ेगी और कठिनाई पेश आयेगी । हमारी बहनें जो वहां पर काम करती हैं उनको कपास की रुई बनाने में स्वास्थ्य बिगड़ जाता है और हम देखते हैं कि पांच महीने जो वहां पर वे काम करती हैं तो वह पांच महीने की कमाई १२ महीने के अन्दर दवादारू में खर्च कर देती हैं । यह देखने में आया है कि उनको क्षय रोग हो जाता है और उनके फेफड़े खराब हो जाते हैं लेकिन विवश होकर उन को उन फैक्टरियों में काम करना होता है क्योंकि खेत पर उनको काम मिलता नहीं है और दूसरा रोजी का साधन सुलभ नहीं है ।

इसी प्रकार से बीड़ी बनाने का व्यवसाय है । इस उद्योग में भी काफी तादाद में हमारी बहनें लगी हुई हैं । लेकिन वहां पर बीड़ी व्यवसाय के मालिकान लेबर लाज से बचने के लिए बाईयों को बीड़ी और तम्बाकू बांट देते हैं और वह अपने घरों पर यह बीड़ियां बनाती हैं । यह मालिकान लाखों रुपये की बीड़ियां बनाते हैं और बहुत महंगे दामों पर बेच कर भारी मुनाफा कमाते हैं लेकिन बाईयों को बीड़ी और तम्बाकू बांट देने से और बाईयों द्वारा बीड़ी घरों पर तैयार करने से फैक्टरी ऐक्ट, पेमेंट आफ वेजेज मैटरनिटी बेनीफिट ऐक्ट और गवर्नमेंट के किसी भी लेबर कानून का फायदा उन बीड़ी वर्कर्स को नहीं मिल पाता है । मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं । कि यह उनके साथ सरासर अन्याय है और उनको यह सब बेनीफिट्स मिलने चाहियें । हमारी लाखों बहनों जो बीड़ी वकर्स के तौर पर काम करती हैं उन्हें प्राविडेंट फण्ड का फायदा नहीं मिलेगा और मैं समझता हूं कि सरकार को इस खामी को दूर करना चाहिए ।

इसके साथ ही साथ यह हैल्थ इंश्योरेंस का जो कि हम जनता को फायदा पहुंचाने जा रहे हैं उसका फायदा उन वर्कर्स को नहीं पहुंचेगा और मैं चाहता हूं कि उनको भी प्राविडेंट फण्ड का फायदा मिले । जो उनके कण्ट्रीब्यूशन की रकम है वह इस स्कीम में आनी चाहिए और हमारे बीड़ी वर्कर्स को भी प्राविडेंट फण्ड का बेनीफिट मिलना चाहिए ।

सीजनल फैक्टरीज और बीड़ी वर्कर्स के अलावा धान कुटाई के धंधे में भी हमारी बहनें काफी तादाद में लगी हुई हैं । धान कुटाई के कारखाने हमारे मध्य प्रदेश के अन्दर बहुत हैं । धान कुटाई के कारखाने १२ महीने नहीं चलते हैं । जब धान आता है जमा होता है तो धान कुटाई का काम उन कारखानों में शुरू होता है और उस समय काफी तादाद में हमारी बहनें उस काम को करने जाती हैं । मैं चाहता हूं कि उन हमारी बहनों को भी लेबर कानूनों का बेनीफिट मिले । अब होता यह है कि जो ज्यादा दुखी हैं, और जिनकी आमदनी बहुत थोड़ी है उन्हें कोई फायदा नहीं मिलता है और जिनकी आमदनी ज्यादा है और जो अपेक्षाकृत अपने पैरों पर खड़े हैं उनको ज्यादा बेनीफिट मिले यह कहां तक ठीक और वाजिब होगा ? मन्त्री महोदय को आज नहीं तो कल इस चीज पर विचार करना होगा और मैं चाहता हूं कि वे इस बात को अपने सामने रक्खें कि सीजनल फैक्टरीज में काम करने वालों और धन धान कुटाई या बीड़ी वर्कर्स को भी सेंटर के जो लेबर लाज हैं उनका फायदा किस प्रकार से मिले ।

मैं सरकार लेबर डिपार्टमेंट और ज्वाएंट कमेटी को धन्यवाद देता हूं कि उन्होंने एक ऐसा लेजिस्लेशन वर्कर्स के फायदे के वास्ते रक्खा है और यह सही है कि दूसरी

स्टेट्स की वनिस्बत सबसे अधिक प्रोग्रेसिव कानून आप बनाने जा रहे हैं और जिस के जरिए हमारे देश की लाखों माताओं और बहनों को फायदा मिलेगा और इसके लिये मैं उनको मुबारकबाद देता हूं और इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूं ।

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal (Uluberia): Sir, I hope this Bill will go a long way to meet the needs of the female workers who were suffering for a long time. But I would like to point out certain things in this Bill. Firstly, in sub-clause (2) of clause 12 it has been stated:

> "The discharge or dismissal of a woman at any time during her pregnancy, if the woman but for such discharge or dismissal would have been entitled to maternity benefit or medical bonus referred to in section 8, shall not have the effect of depriving her of the maternity benefit or medical bonus."

But this benefit is being taken away by the proviso:

> "Provided that where the dismissal is for any prescribed gross miconduct, the employer may, by order in writing communicated to the woman, deprive her of the maternity benefit or medical bonus or both."

This gross misconduct is a difficult thing to define, anything can be included in gross misconduct. So far this has not been defined correctly in any piece of legislation.

Shri Abid Ali: It says 'prescribed misconduct'.

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: We do not know. Whatever be the offence, that may be included in this gross misconduct.

Shri Abid Ali: Government will prescribed under the rules.

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: Rules are made by the executive authority. Gross misconduct is a wide enough term. Any offence which may not be considered by others as gross misconduct may be considered as gross misconduct by the executive authority. That is why most of the troubles in regard to labour arise due to this term 'gross misconduct'

17 hrs.

The second point that I would like to mention, Sir, is that wide powers are being given to the State Governments in the matter of exempting industries from the purview of this Act. The State Governments sometimes, may be under pressure of circumstances, may exempt some important industries from the operation of this Act. Naturally, I would like to point out that these wide powers which have been given to the State Governments in the matter of exemption should be taken away or at least restricted so that this Act can be implemented at all levels.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is the hon. Member likely to finish in a minute or two, or would he like to continue tomorrow?

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: I will take only five minutes.

An Hon. Member: Let him continue tomorrow.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All right. The hon. Member may continue tomorrow. Now we will take up the other business.

17.01 hrs.

DISCUSSION RE: PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, EXPORT AND PRICE-FIXATION OF SUGAR—*contd.*

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now resume further discussion on the production, distribution, export and price fixation of sugar raised by

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

Shri S. M. Banerjee on the 9th August, 1961. Shri Tyagi—

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): Sir, there is one thing....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is a time-limit for speeches. I suppose it is ten minutes.

Shri Tyagi: It is such a small matter that I will be able to finish in ten minutes.

Sir, one thing which struck me most was the idea of reducing the price of sugarcane. I want to make it quite clear that this Parliament should not be partial against the villagers. Let us understand that the bulk of our population are villagers. They live on agriculture They have no other means or income except some agricultural produce. The tendency of the Government and of the whole country for so many years long has been to see that the food prices are kept low, the price of sugarcane is kept low for all time. Where will these poor villagers eat from? After all, we have to take care of their standards also. The Parliament being the guardian for the whole population of India, let us not give them a step-motherly treatment because the villagers are not vocal, they cannot demonstrate and they have no means to do it. But if things go on like this the villagers will be forced to demonstrate and their demonstration will be fatal for democracy. Therefore, let us keep in mind that it is a potential force and let us not go on annoying them.

We have never cared to consider at what prices their bullocks are available to them these days. A pair of bullocks which used to cost Rs. 100 or Rs. 150 is now costing about Rs. 900 to Rs. 1200. Anybody, who knows something about the villages will know about it How much does cement cost? Iron, steel, etc. cost very much. The cost of their agricultural tools etc. has become five or six times more costly. Nobody bothers about the cost of maintenance of agricultural activities. What about their housing conditions? Their houses are in a sad plight. I must say, like the old citizens in the Roman Empire, it is only the urban population that take the best benefit out of the industries that we start. The villagers do not benefit at all. They continue to suffer.

Therefore, I protest if there is any talk of reduction of sugarcane prices. I would welcome it, provided the prices of other things which are consumed by the villagers be also reduced. We are told that if the price of foodgrains rises, the whole economic structure will be upset because the labour charges will go up, the wages and salaries will go up, there will be dearness and all that. They say that the whole structure will be upset, as if the whole structure is limited only to a few towns—the structure is also spread elsewhere.

I only want to emphasise this point, that the interest of the peasant class should not suffer. I hope the hon. Minister will take care of that. Their case should not go by default because they are not here actually.

Then, Sir, there comes the question of representation.

Shri Kamalnayan Bajaj (Wardha): Whom does Shri Tyagi represent?

Shri Tyagi: I represent the villagers, but my difficulty is that I am not a villager. I protest against the reduction of cane price. There should be no reduction. There is no harm if the price of sugar is kept high. If necessary, we can reduce it also. After all, how is that price arrived at? In the price of sugar, about Rs. 17-8-0 goes for sugar-cane, 8 annas for commission for co-operative societies, Rs. 2 for cess to the State Governments per maund of sugar, Rs. 5-8-0 for mill, handling and manufacturing charges and Rs. 10-12-0 go towards excise duties.

Shri C. D. Pande (Naini Tal): The State takes a big slice.

Shri Tyagi: About Rs. 13 goes to the coffers of the State. The price of sugar has gone up because these Rs. 13 per maund are taken by the States. If the Parliament is very keen to reduce the price, let it make a sacrifice of these cesses and duties, rather than rob the poor peasants of his legitimate share. That question can be considered.

Then, there has been some talk of loss being incurred on account of export of sugar. We cannot do without exports. After all, we have to pay back the debts we have incurred. So, willy nilly we have to export even at a loss Export is now our lifeline, as our loans are, because loans are ultimately to be repaid. It is a pity that our loans are heaping up and we are not finding the means to repay them. They cannot be repaid without exports.

But it is not a queer or strange phenomenon peculiar to India alone. I understand that in Indonesia the internal price of sugar is Rs. 48 per maund. But they are exporting sugar at the rate of Rs. 16 per maund. So, they are also exporting sugar at a loss. Likewise, in Australia the internal price is Rs. 33 per maund. They are also exporting sugar at Rs. 16 per maund. So, it is not something peculiar to India which deserves criticism. Who have to export even at a loss and I think the hon. Minister is fully justified in suggesting that. I would even say that he should explore the possibilities of exporting more and more of sugar, because we have got surplus and we must export it.

But there is one thing which looks strange to us. On the one hand, there is so much of surplus sugar and we do not know how to deal with it. At the same time, it is surprising to find that we are sanctioning during the Third Plan extra capacity for sugar production. I understand that 4½ lakhs tons extra capacity is going to be sanctioned in the south. If there is already a surplus, let us reduce the sugar-cane crop and the capacity of the factories; let us ask the peasants not to grow too much of sugar-cane. On the other hand, what we are doing is creating more factories.

Shri Kamalnayan Bajaj: That cannot be helped for the coming season.

Shri Tyagi: The coming season is another matter. On the one hand, we are suffering on account of the surplus. Sugar stocks are piled up in the factories and the owners are crying hoarse; nobody listens to them. They cannot get any money because they cannot sell their stocks. Their money is blocked up and they are not able to get any money from the banks. I do not know what facilities are being given to the factories for the purpose of getting advances from banks etc. Because of their huge stocks they are protesting "we cannot sell our stocks".

Another strange phenomenon is that we are not permitting people to eat enough sugar. We have surplus sugar and we are keeping it in stock, God knows for what. I want to bring to the notice of the House another surprising thing. At the time when control on the sale of sugar was applied, because the price of sugar was going up and there was shortage—I think then this was not handled by my hon. friend but by somebody else—a queer thing happened. I was surprised at the manner in which the control was introduced and I even wrote a letter to the Ministry. What they said was that the sugar from the factory could be handled only by those agents who are appointed by the State Government or on the recommendation of the State Government or some department, I do not exactly remember by whom. Only one or two persons were to handle the sugar produced in a factory, with

[Shri Tyagi]

the result that they earned Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 60,000 a month as their commission. This was solely because it would go through one needle hole only and nobody else could sell it. That was one control.

Then I enquired from the Department. I was surprised and shocked to know that that agent was not compelled to sell it at any fixed price. He was free to sell it at any price.

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): No, no.

Shri Tyagi: That was so originally. I was told so.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Now the District Magistrate fixes the price.

Shri Tyagi: I am talking of then and not of now. I am talking of the time when the control came into being. It was said in so many words that there could be no limit on the price at which this agent would sell it, that we were not controlling the price and that every nominated agent was free to sell it at any price he chose. It went on for months together. That was the rule. It was after great protests that changes, if any, have now been effected.

Anyway, that control came into being because there was shortage of sugar. Now it is said that if sugar is given to everybody and if it is freely sold, quite a number of factories will die, that there will be a crash because the factories cannot run and that prices will come down. Therefore they are not prepared to sell it freely and want to have restricted sale in the country. I do not understand this logic. I request the hon Minister, I appeal to him, to see to the needs of the people. Let them have sugar and let it not go only through patronised people, through those who are favourites either of this Government or of the State Governments. This is a thing which may be looked into. I think it must be freely sold now. Sell as much as you release. But it must be sold by anybody who buys it. Let any shopkeeper sell it.

Another difficulty that I came across is with regard to the price of sugar in the South. My hon. friend, Shri Ranga, may pardon me. I do not believe in north and south. But then the hon. Minister has made it like this. The price in the South is higher than the price in the north.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Oh! yes.

Shri Tyagi: It is he who has done it. I fully appreciate it. The reason for this is that sugar from the north has to go to the port. There is shortage of sugar even in the south. Because this sugar goes to the south, transport charges are added to the price and the price in the south, therefore, goes to about Rs. 42 or something per maund.

Shri C. D. Pande: In North India it is Rs. 38 per maund for the best sugar.

Shri Tyagi: I can well understand if the sugar which is transported from the north to the south sells at Rs. 42 per maund including all that extra expenditure. That could be understandable.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): It is Rs. 45 per maund.

Shri C. D. Pande: Wholesale price.

Shri Tyagi: But why is the mill-owner of that place allowed to sell it at Rs. 45? He has not incurred any transport charges. This is something very strange that the mill-owner there is permitted by the Ministry to sell his sugar at Rs. 42 or Rs. 43 per maund only because the other sugar will have to sell at Rs. 42 a maund. He earns this extra margin of profit on account of transport which is unearned. Sugar has not been transported. It is in the same godown.

But still the transport expenses are enjoyed freely!

Shri C. D. Pande: This is in the name of parity of prices.

Shri Kamalnayan Bajaj: Do you mean to say that the transport charges should be pooled?

Shri Tyagi: Something of this nature has to be done.

Shri S. L. Saksena (Maharajganj): It is raised by Rs. 4.

Shri Tyagi: I was shocked to know the figures of the margin of profit permitted by the Tariff Commission when my hon. friend, Shri Shibban Lal Saksena, quoted them. It is surprising. It is a matter which requires investigation. I hope the hon. Minister will make it quite clear whether such a big margin as 12 per cent. is allowed.

Shri S. L. Saksena: From Re. 1 it has gone to Rs. 2·76 nP.

Shri Tyagi: If that is the margin of profit, the House must understand what the position really is.

Shri K. N. Pande (Hata): It is a wrong figure. I can tell you that.

Shri Tyagi: If it is a wrong figure, it must be corrected. Yesterday I was shocked to know that the Tariff Commission has given so much margin of profit to the factory-owners. It is really objectionable. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to clarify as to how much profit is being permitted to the factory-owners.

Shri Kamalnayan Bajaj: The wage board implementation has been the burden on the industry; and in the export also they have suffered.

Shri Ranga (Tenali): I am in agreement with almost all the points made by my hon. friend Shri Tyagi. I am very glad he has put in a very strong plea in favour of not lowering the prices of cane and, in that way, not affecting injuriously the interests of our cane growers. I think there is a large area of agreement between us and the Minister himself who is in charge of this.

Shri Tyagi: Come this side!

Shri Ranga: But I am not quite sure whether the Minister—well, he may protest against it—is given free scope to give effect to some of his own ideas in regard to the welfare of the peasants.

Shri C. D. Pande: He is a very powerful Minister.

Shri Ranga: I discovered two trends in one statement that he made. (*Interruption*).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. Every hon. Member cannot try to become as strong as the Minister!

Shri Ranga: And that is that somehow or other you have to see that the prices go down and, at the same time, the peasants must be protected. He seems to think that the price of cane can be brought down and, at the same time, the peasants can be protected provided the total production per acre is pushed up. When that is going to be done we do not know, and he himself cannot be so sure. The second thing is that the sucrose content in the cane also can be pushed up. When that is going to materialise he himself cannot imagine, nor can we know. Therefore, it all comes to this that we want a definite assurance from the hon. Minister that whatever may happen in the realm of production of sugarcane, the quantum of it, and also in the realm of the sucrose content, the interests of the peasants will not be allowed to be adversely affected as a result of the sugar policy that the Government would be following in the next four or five years.

Secondly, I am not in favour of the continuance of this sugar control. In-

[Shri Ranga]

deed, the House might remember that one or two days before the last session was over, the hon. Minister's Deputy was good enough to assure the House that they were thinking very seriously of decontrolling sugar distribution in our country. But unfortunately for us other counsels seem to have prevailed and they have not decided upon it as yet. I am informed on good authority by some of my friends here that Government has been allowing as much as Rs. 3·35 nP for handling charges through their government-controlled agencies, whereas the ordinary trade would be capable of doing all this at one rupee per maund; and in that way it would be possible for us, if they were to remove these controls, to economise to the tune of Rs. 2.35 nP per maund.

There must be several other possibilities also. Some of them have already been suggested by my hon. friend Shri Tyagi. Suppose, for instance, my hon. friend the Minister would reconsider again the quantum of profit that is to be allowed to the sugar manufacturers, and also establishing a pool for all the sugar that is produced all over India and see there is a uniform price charged for the sale of sugar, as is being suggested by my hon. friend Shri Kamalnayan Bajaj. It is quite possible that the hon. Minister would be able to find the decontrol of sugar quite practicable without, at the same time, in any way endangering the interests of either the sugar manufacturers or the sugarcane growers. I would like this question to be discussed at his level and at the level of the Cabinet and not be hampered by the Planning Commission and their various notions of price policy and all the rest of it.

I am extremely anxious that whatever loss India has got to sustain by the sale of sugar in other countries at less than half the price at which it is being sold here in our country, that loss must be borne by the whole of the community and not a part of it. Not even a small part of it should be shifed to the agriculturists and the sugar manufacturers merely for the sin of their being more directly connected with this industry either as agriculturists or as manufacturers. I know, my hon. friend Shri S. K. Patil has recently come from America. He must be aware of the fact that although America goes on selling he agricultural surpluses in the rest of the world....

Shri C. D. Pande: At a cheaper price too.

Shri Ranga: That is what I am saying.

....in other countries at less than the cost price in their country, at less than the price which they themselves pay to their own agriculturists, they do not make their agriculturists suffer thereby. On the other hand, they make the whole country stand whatever loss they have to sustain by these sales abroad. Therefore, it would be best for our Congress Government as a whole to support our Minister in his efforts to maintain the price of sugarcane in our country.

Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi (Puri): Are they not supporting Shri S. K. Patil?

Shri Ranga: I do not know what you mean.

I find that the area under sugarcane is growing in a way. At the same time, it is not uniformly growing. Production of sugar also is increasing, it is true, and the sugar industry can afford to sell sugar in our country at a lower price than what it is doing at present even while allowing the price that is being paid to the agriculturists, in that way safeguarding the interests of the agriculturists.

There is also one other possibility. It is for the Government as a whole to decide whether it would not be in the interests of the country as a whole as well as the sugar industry that the quantum of sugar excise duty should

be reduced. That suggestion has already been made by my hon. friend Shri Tyagi. I want the Government to spare more and more of the proceeds of the sugar excise duty for the development of research in order to increase production of sugarcane first of all, secondly also for transport facilities that are to be made available for the sugarcane growers and thirdly for raising the sucrose content of our sugarcane. As is very well known, in very many places, it is found that the sugarcane growers are obliged to cut the sugarcane and keep it waiting for more than 24 hours before it is weighed and taken over by the sugar mill owners, with the result that the sucrose content goes down progressively hour after hour and the whole of the industry as well as the nation suffers in addition to the sufferings of the peasants.

Shri Kamalnayan Bajaj: Not only 24 hours, but sometimes it is 50 or 60 hours.

Shri Ranga: These things happen because of various reasons for some of which the mill owners themselves are responsibse and also for some of which lack of transport facilties is responsible. In all these directions it is time now that the Minister as well as the Ministry as a whole give their consideration to improve the condition of the agriculturists as well as the manufacturers, by setting apart a portion of the collection from the excise duty for this particular purpose and funding it, in fact, in the same way as they have been doing it in the case of the Indian Central Cotton committee and also the oilseeds.

Lastly, I am not at all in favour of the present policy of starving our people so far as sugar is concerned and then saving so much of it in the vain hope of exporting to other countries and afterwards finding, in spite of all the efforts of our resourceful Minister for Agriculture, that we are not able to sell all our surpluses, and therefore, we are burdened with all that additional surplus on our hands and we do not know what to do. I would like the Ministry to explore ways and means by which they can possibly distribute such surpluses of sugar production as they find themselves in possession of in the same way in which imported milk powder and other imported food materials are being made available to those classes who are supposed to be the vulnerable sections of our population.

Several Hon. Members *rose*—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now, there is no time to call so many hon. Members.

Shri C. D. Pande: I want only one minute.

Shri Bibhuti Mishra (Bagaha): Give us five minutes each.

श्री रामसेवक यादव (बाराबंकी) समय बढ़ा दिया जाय तो अच्छा होगा ।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : अगर समय बढ़ा भी दिया जाय तो हम कितने मेम्बरों को समय दे सकेंगे ? कितने मेम्बर साहबान बोलना चाहते हैं, क्या मुझे कुछ अन्दाजा हो सकता है ? इस वक्त यहां पर बारह सदस्य खड़े हुए हैं ।

Shri C. D. Pande: I am not going to take much time. I would take only one minute.

Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi: We can complete this discussion tomorrow.

Shri C. D. Pande: There is a great deal of misaprehension in the House about the loss that we are incurring in exporting sugar to the USA.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Let the hon. Minister reply.

Shri C. D. Pande: I am only giving my impression of it. The hon. Minister should be congratulated on having extracted a price which is much more than the world price of sugar. He has got Rs. 565 per ton. This works out to Rs. 21 and a few annas per maund.

Shri Bibhuti Mishra: I challenge my friend Shri C. D. Pande. Here is a paper with me which says that in the agreement entered into by England with Australia and Fiji, the figure is £45·2·0 per ton. I challenge my hon. friend....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. Should I allow this to be settled by a duel?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil): Outside the House.

Shri C. D. Pande: I do not know what my hon. friend Shri Bibhuti challenges. I am only quoting the figures which the hon. Minister has quoted. He has said that the price for the sugar that is exported to the USA is Rs. 565 per ton. If my hon. friend challenges me, I would only refer him to the hon. Minister. Rs. 565 per ton works out to Rs. 21 per maund. That is just a matter of calculation.

Shri S. K. Patil: It is Rs. 545

Shri C. D. Pande: Anyhow, it comes to about Rs. 20 and a few annas per maund.

Shri A. M. Thomas: It is Rs. 560.

Shri C. D. Pande: This does not result in any loss, in the sense that this sugar would not have been produced if the hon. Minister had not evolved the idea or the plan of giving subsidy to the excess production. Two years back, this country was producing about 20 lakhs tons of sugar. The hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture is an ingenious person, and by a certain device that he had in mind, he has raised it to almost 30 lakhs tons. This means that 10 lakhs tons of sugar have been produced extra in this country. On those 10 lakhs tons, we do not get any taxes; the taxes on sugar from the States and from the Centre come to about Rs. 13 per maund. Rs. 20 or Rs. 21 plus Rs. 13 would come to about Rs. 33; Rs. 34 and that only three rupees short is the selling price of sugar. Let me tell you the loss is negligible. The loss is there only if you are counting on what would have been earned if everything was spent here or consumed here, and if the excise had been imposed on every ounce of sugar, and the sugar production also had gone up to 40 or 50 lakhs of tons and you had levied excise and cess on every ounce of sugar; then, of course, the income would have been Rs. 100 crores. You are losing only because you have got what was not there, and if there is any loss on what would not have been there, we should not mind it because we are earning foreign exchange. That is the only point that I want to make.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now, Shri Bibhuti Mishra. Let us hear that challenge.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे दोस्त ने यहां पर कह दिया कि चीनी के दाम ज्यादा हैं । मैं आप को बतलाना चाहता हूं कि इंग्लैंड के साथ आस्ट्रेलिया और फीजी का जो ऐग्रीमेंट हुआ .....

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : आप ने जो चैलेन्ज थ्रो किया था उस को आप सीधे नहीं लेना चाहते हैं, आप रास्ते से बाहर जा रहेहैं ।

श्री विभूति मिश्र : मैं उसी पर आता हूं । सन् १९६१ में इंग्लैंड के साथ आस्ट्रेलिया और फीजी ने जो ऐग्रीमेंट किया है उस के अनुसार ४५ पाउंड २ शिलिंग पर टन चीनी की कीमत होती है । अगर पाउंड को १५ रु० का भी मान लिया जाय तो एक टन चीनी की कीमत ६७५ रु० होती है । हमारे मिनिस्टर साहब कहते हैं कि हिन्दुस्तान की चीनी ८०० रु० पर टन पड़ती है ।

मिनिस्टर साहब ने अपने स्टेटमेंट में बतलाया है कि ग्रोअर को १७ रु० मन मिलता है और चीनी को वह बेच र हैं ३७ रु० ८५

न० प० मन । इस हिसाब से २० रु० ८५ न० पै० फी मन या तो सरकार की ड्यूटी में जाता है या मिल वालों के चीनी बनाने में जाता है । मिनिस्टर साहब का कहना है कि किसान को ६८ फी सदी मिलता है । जब ३६ रु० ८५ न० पै० में किसान को १७ रु० मिलते हैं तो यहां के आनरेबल मेम्बर कम से कम मैट्रिक तक तो मैथिमैटिक्स पढ़े हुए तो हैं ही, यह लगभग ४५ फी सदी आता है । सौ रुपए में ४५ किसान को मिलता है जब कि ये अपने स्टेटमेंट में बताते हैं कि ६८ परसेंट मिलता है । ३७ रुपए ८५ नए पैसे में से १७ रुपए किसान को मिलते हैं । हिसाब लगा लीजिए कि किसान को क्या परसेंट मिलता है ।

17.31 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

दूसरी बात यह है, जैसा कि श्री शिब्बन लाल सक्सेना ने कहा है, कि उनको १२ प्रतिशत मुनाफा दिया जाता है । इस सम्बन्ध में मैं आपको गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया गजट एक्सट्राआर्डिनरी पार्ट १, सेक्शन १, ४ अप्रैल १९६० में से कुछ पढ़ कर सुनाना चाहता हूं । उसमें लिखा है :

"The Commission has recommended that in addition to the cost of production derived from the cost schedules with reference to duration of season and rate of recovery of sugar, 12 per cent. return on employed capital should be allowed so as to provide sufficient funds for each unit to meet its commitments under bonus and gratuity, interest on borrowed capital and debentures, dividend on preference shares, managing agents' commission and income-tax and finally leave a residue to a large majority of the units in all regions to declare reasonable divisions".

Mr. Speaker: Let him read slowly. What is this hurry about?

Shri Bibhuti Mishra: The Deputy-Speaker has allowed me only five minutes. What should I do?

Mr. Speaker: The speech is torrential.

Shri Mohan Swarup (Pilibhit): The time may be extended.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : तो आप उनको १२ परसेंट प्राफिट देते हैं । डोर त्यागी जी ने कहा कि कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन साढ़े पांच रुपया होना चाहिए । मैं बतलाना चाहता हूं कि कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन इससे कम होनी चाहिए । उसका कारण यह है कि जब फैक्टरी ज्यादा दिन चलती है तो कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन बहुत कम पड़ता है । यहां फैक्टरियां ज्यादा दिन चली हैं इसलिए कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन कम होना चाहिए । अगर १८० दिन फैक्टरियां चलें तो कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन ४ रुपया ६७ नए पैसे होगा, लेकिन फैक्टरियां १८० दिन से ज्यादा चली हैं, इसलिए कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन कम पड़ेगा ।

अब हमारे फुड और एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्टर साहब कहते हैं कि जो चीनी हम एक्सपोर्ट करेंगे उसके बनाने में जो ग्रोअर का केन लगता है उसकी कीमत कम होनी चाहिए । मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि जब आस्ट्रेलिया और फिजी इंगलैंड को ४५ पाउंड २ शिलिंग यानी ६७५ रुपए में अपनी चीनी बेचते हैं तो हमारी चीनी उससे कम में क्यों जाएगी । असल बात तो यह है कि हमारे मिनिस्टर साहब बनिया तो हैं नहीं, व्यापारी हैं नहीं, जो सौदा करना जानें । पालिटिक्स और व्यापार अलग अलग चीजें हैं । ये सौदे बाजी करना क्या जानें । यह तो ब्राह्मण हैं । यह तो बनिया जानता है. मिनिस्टर साहब अमरीका आदि जगह जाकर वापस आ गए लेकिन अच्छा सौदा नहीं कर सके । अगर किसी बनिए को भेजते तो वह ठीक सौदा करता ।

Shri Raghunath Singh: (Varanasi): The Speaker himself is a Brahman;

श्री विभूति मिश्र : आप भी बनिए नहीं हैं, आप तो जमींदार हैं दूसरे की जमीन लेते हैं ।

[श्री विभूति मिश्र]

कहा जाता है कि चीनी बहुत ज्यादा हो गयी है । अध्यक्ष महोदय, सन् १९५८–५९ में बीस लाख ८० हजार टन चीनी देश में खपी । लेकिन अब उसके दो साल बाद जब कि आबादी बढ़ गयी है कहते हैं कि साढ़े २० लाख टन खाओ । सन् १९५८–५९ में देश में २० लाख ८० हजार टन चीनी खर्च होती है और आज दो साल बाद कहा जाता है कि लोग केवल साढ़े बीस लाख टन चीनी खाएं । दिक्कत यह है कि चीनी रिलीज नहीं करते हैं । अगर उदारतापूर्वक चीनी रिलीज करें तो लोग ज्यादा चीनी खाएंगे । और कीमत की दिक्कत नहीं होगी । आप तो हिन्दुस्तान भर में घूमते हैं । आप देखेंगे कि किसी भी दुकानदार के यहां १ रुपए दो आने और १ रुपए चार आने सेर से कम चीनी नहीं मिलेगी । और अभी डा० राम सुभग सिंह साहब लद्दाख हो कर आए हैं । वहां चीनी ३ रुपए सेर है । सवा रुपए सेर से कम पर तो चीनी कहीं नहीं मिलती । चीनी पर इस तरह का नियंत्रण ठीक नहीं है । चीनी को उदारतापूर्वक रिलीज करना चाहिए और किसान के गन्ने के दाम कम नहीं होने चाहिएं । आप हिसाब लगाएं कि एक मन चीनी बनाने में कितना गन्ना लगता है, और यह भी देखें कि कितना किसान को देते हैं और कितना मुनाफा मिल वाले को देते हैं । आपने बतलाया कि उनको १२ परसेंट प्राफिट दिया जाता है । इसके अलावा सुना है कि चीनी वाले कुछ रकम चीनी मिलों को रिहैबिलिटेट करने के लिए चाहते हैं । आज जितने भी चीनी के कारखाने चल रहे हैं इन्होंने बहुत समय पहले अपना सारा दाम तो मुनाफे के रूप में निकाल लिया है और अब तो उनको केवल मुनाफा ही मानाफा है । फिर भी वह और चाहते हैं । मैं फिर फुड और एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्टर साहब से निवेदन करूंगा कि आप जो कहते हैं कि जो शुगर हम एक्सपोर्ट करेंगे उसके बनाने में जो गन्ना काम आया है उसका दाम कम किया जाएगा । यह मुनासिब नहीं है । मैं तो कहता हूं कि आप चीनी को उदारतापूर्वक रिलीज कीजिए, यह सवाल ही पैदा नहीं होगा ।

एक बात और । यह तै हुआ था कि किसान को गन्ने की कीमत के बदले में चीनी दी जाए । लेकिन उसमें ऐसी शर्तें लगा दी हैं कि किसान को गन्ने के दाम के बदले चीनी नहीं मिल पाती । मैं चाहता हूं कि यह प्रबन्ध होना चाहिए कि अगर किसान गन्ने की कीमत के बदले में चीनी चाहे तो उसको दी जानी चाहिए । मैं चाहता हूं कि सरकार अपनी चीनी की पालिसी को ठीक करें । यह पालिसी कितने ही मिनिस्टरों को खा गयी है । इसलिए आगे नहीं रखना चाहिए ।

Some Hon. Members *rose*—

Shri Khadilkar (Ahmednagar): I want to point out one thing, that all the spokesmen of the inefficient sector of the industry from the North have spoken. Only the co-operative sector, which is the most efficient sector, has been left out. Their problems are different, and the hon. Minister will admit that that sector has got to be represented.

Shri Tyagi: What is the criterion of your efficiency?

Shri Khadilkar: I am going to quote figures.

Mr. Speaker: There can be difference of opinion regarding this.

Shri Kamalnayan Bajaj: They come from Poona where there is all efficiency.

Mr. Speaker: His only point is that only one section has been represented, not the other.

Has the hon. Minister any outside work tomorrow?

Shri S. K. Patil: I am not here tomorrow. It will have to be postponed for some time.

Shri Raghunath Singh: My hon. friend has used the expression, "in-

efficiency of the northern people". This should be expunged. We all belong to India as a whole.

Shri Khadilkar: This is what I said, and I repeat it. Only the inefficient sector of the North is represented in the debate, but the efficient, co-operative sector from the South had no opportunity.

Shri Raghunath Singh: We protest against this.

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid the hon. Member is making it worse. I would only say he does not refer to the inefficiency of the North, of the hon. Member Shri Raghunath Singh. He is quite efficient so far as work in Parliament is concerned. He only refers to inefficiency in those people who produce sugar in the North. No hon. Member need put on this cap which is to be fitted to some other person.

In view of the fact that the hon. Minister cannot be here tomorrow, and as I do not want the impression so far gained in the debate to be lost by putting off the reply indefinitely, I am asking the hon. Minister to reply. I do not know if he can come at least day after tomorrow. He is not able to say.

Shri Kamalnayan Bajaj: What is the criterion of efficiency? Is it only that they are co-operative societies, or that Nature gives them greater recovery in sugar?

Shri Khadilkar: Certainly there is greater recovery.

Shri Kamalnayan Bajaj: But that is because of Nature; it is not efficiency.

Shri Khadilkar: The method of agriculture is also responsible.

Shri Tyagi: Every one who is honest is considered to be inefficient.

Mr. Speaker: It is wrong.

Shri S. K. Patil: I am sorry that such a sweet subject as sugar should have drawn so much controversy. If I reply, I think I will be able to give satisfaction to most of the Members, if not to all. Therefore, they should bear with me patiently for some time. I should be given the opportunity of giving a fuller, more complete and, if I may say so, unvarnished picture so far as the sugar position of this country is concerned.

Most of the Members have got at the back of their mind the fear that the price of sugarcane is going to be reduced. The burden of the song in every speech was that. Where they got it I do not know.

I am really surprised. I do not think there is any hon. Member who can join issue with me on the point of protecting the interest of the farmers of this country. I shall feel insulted if that is done because it has been my constant endeavour to see, ever since I have taken this responsibility, that the interests of the farmers are protected, no matter at what cost. Therefore, it is none of the intention of the Government at present to reduce the price of sugarcane at all . . . (*Interruptions.*) What I have said was not about the lowering of the price of sugarcane. Often on the floor of this House, I have said that I shall devise a formula sometime in future where I shall assure the farmer that not only will he not get less but he will get more but I will not tie down the price of sugarcane. Nobody is thinking of it now. That will be when the time comes for it. In so far as exports were concerned, what I have said was this. If at all ten per cent of our sugar production has got to be exported, then surely we cannot afford to loose all this money. Therefore, all elements that go to make sugar, including the grower, the mill-owner—everybody, even excise duty—should combine to see that the exports do not become uneconomic. In that if I can persuade the farmer to make any sacrifice, I would do so.

[Shri S. K. Patil]

I would assure all these representatives of the farmers that I do represent the farmers even more than they do and surely I would be able to persuade them. What is intended is that the farmer has got to choose between two alternatives. May I say this, Mr. Speaker, with your permission? If we had not taken all this trouble and if we do not have all these so called obnoxious and very bad things and there is no control over sugar and we let everything to a free economy then it is the farmer who will suffer.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Why?

Shri S. K. Patil: It will be so. It is not a question of 'why'. The hon. Member knows it very well and therefore, one need not lose temper over it. Let us consider these problems in a dispassionate manner and in a calm manner. I shall repeat once again on behalf of the Government that there is no intention whatsoever of reducing the cane price.

Having said that—because I know that it will cool down the tempers and they will listen patiently and peacefully. I shall say exactly what is the story—entire, full, complete and unvarnished—of sugar, and what is the problem we must consider . . .

Shri S. M. Banerjee *rose*—

Shri S. K. Patil: My hon. friend should keep quiet for sometime; I never interrupted him. It is a bad habit in a serious debate.

This problem has got to be considered against the background of what obtained five or six years before. What was the condition when we introduced these incentives and what was the mood of this House when the sugar debate used to take place in those days? May I tell you Sir, that right from 1956 upto the time when we gave these incentives, when there was a debate on agriculture or sugar in this House, the situation was that the prices were rocketing and there was not enough sugar in this country. There were serious talks of importing sugar from the other countries by mortgaging the very precious foreign exchange that we had got. It is against that background in 1959 that the sugar position of today has got to be considered.

The House will remember that one of my predecessors in this position a very practical man, Shri Kidwai, during these four or five years imported as much as 14 lakhs of tons of sugar and it must have cost nothing less than Rs. 40 crores of foreign exchange. Why? Because it was necessary to do so, because we were not producing enough sugar and surely you cannot expect the people to remain without sugar. In 1959 a type of situation arose and it was the time when this House was nice and kind enough to hear my first statement on my becoming the Minister of Food and Agriculture and I said that if it was possible for me and so long as it was in my power I shall not import even a ton of sugar from outside. If a country can be made self-sufficient in sugar, why should I go outside for imports? Besides, I had no money and no foreign exchange. You can understand.

Today the farmer has worked and worked very honestly. Every body has done his best and more sugar is produced and the first electric shock is that the levels are falling down. If there is a shortage Government has to be condemned! If there be a little surplus the Government has got to be condemned! I do not know how that mathematical accuracy is to be achieved. I pose this question very purposefully because what you understand as self-sufficiency is not that sufficiency with a mathematical accuracy—that there shall be nothing less and there shall be nothing more. I do not think, with all the mechanism that the administration can provide, any Minister, howsoever competent he may be, will be able to do that. I shall illustrate what I mean.

What is the consumption of sugar in this country? It is somewhere about 24 lakhs to 25 lakh tons. Therefore, supposing we decide that we shall produce 25 lakh tons, no Minister can do that, because he has to depend upon the elements and forces which are far beyond his control. He may end up by producing 20 lakh tons or 30 lakh tons. I have often said that India is not only the pioneer of sugar in this whole world but that for centuries before Christ this country was talked of as the only country that produced sugar. Alexander has mentioned this sugar. Even the name of sugar, in fact, was not there in those days. It was the honey that grows on the reeds. I am not merely arousing your sentiment by referring to that. We today produce the largest quantity of sugar in the whole world. That also has got to be understood. Do not merely look to the refined sugar of about three million or 29·8 lakh tons—that we produce. You look to the jaggery and the khandsari that we produce. The proportion is 1·2. That means sugar is only one-third of the total. If the whole cane was crushed for sugar we shall be producing 9 to 10 million tons of sugar, and that is surely 20 per cent of the whole world's production of sugar. Therefore, in a country that is capable of producing 9 to ten million tons of sugar—why capable of?—it does produce it in the form of gur, in the form of khandsari and in the form of refined crystal sugar—what do I want? I put this question in all humility to my hon. friends. To have self-sufficiency in sugar in a country that produces 9 to 10 million tons, surely five per cent or six per cent margin must be given. Unless I produce more I cannot have self-sufficiency. What is half a million ton as compared to 9 to 10 million tons? You will see that what we export is not more than five to six per cent of the totality of the sweetening elements including crystal sugar that we produce in this country.

Am I asking for anything which is impossible? Should we be almost electrocuted simply because something has happened which we can tide over? It is not such an insurmountable difficulty which, with all the ingenuity of the administration and may I say, of this House, we would not really combat with. Therefore, this is the first stage that we have come to, and we must be able to surmount this difficulty. I am quite sure that with the co-operation of this House the Government will be able to surmount this difficulty.

A few figures will be interesting in this connection. In 1955-56, we were producing 18·62 lakh tons and consuming 19·41 lakh tons. I do not give all the details of the figures. The consumption of sugar was increasing by 45,000 tons, 56,000 tons and 38,000 tons because the population is increasing. When the consumption goes down, that means something is radically wrong. What is radically wrong? For the last two or three years the consumption has been stationary. It has not increased. Right from 1955, if I understand correctly, the trend of consumption in this country has been increasing. It is not only so in this country but in the whole world year after year. Even in America the consumption has been increasing. It was increasing by 75,000 tons every year. It has now come to an increase of 125,000 tons a year because of the population and the diversified taste of the people to eat more and more sugar, chocolates, milk-shakes and all that type of thing. That is how the consumption has increased. What has happened during the last two or three years? I can give you the figures. In 1959, two years back, it was 20·21 lakh tons. In 1960-61, it was 20·5 lakh tons. Instead of increasing, it has come down. Therefore, I agree with my hon. friends Shri Tyagi and Shri S. L. Saksena and others that something has caused it, that some clog in the machinery has been there. It has got to be removed in order that the normal channel may function, and with the increase in population and the diversification of the tastes of the

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people, our consumption should increase normally. It should have been about 22 lakhs to 23 lakhs just now, and that is why, working out very carefully, I thought that at the end of the third Plan,—in five years, if it goes on increasing at the trend that it is increasing, our consumption will go up from 24 lakh tons to 30 lakh tons, i.e. 3 million tons. I must have half a million tons more in order that in a lean or bad year, I will not have the necessity of importing it. That is exactly the definition of self-sufficiency.

Today it is the question of sugar. Tomorrow it may be the question of wheat or rice. This year our farmers have produced the maximum amount of wheat. Suppose tomorrow our farmers, when we give inducements to them, produce 1 million tons more. Do you mean to say that they should eat more and consume it? It is dangerous for their health if they consume it. Therefore, self-sufficiency does include a component or element, however small it may be, 5 or 10 per cent more than the mathematical requirement, so that in any emergency, you shall not be found wanting.

If we have to sell our wheat, we shall have to sell our wheat at the rate of Rs. 14 per maund, but the price in the world market is not more than Rs. 8. Then it will be the same story. You will say, our people do not produce more, but even if they produce more, you punish them by lowering down their price. In every progressive country, when it comes to export its agricultural production, the cost of internal production is much higher than what they get from the export market.

Mr. Speaker: I have also been hearing hon. Members. I do not think anybody complained of the increased production. Notwithstanding the increased production, it is not available in the market. That was the complaint. I am sure the whole country is anxious to eat more and more sweets.

Shri S. K. Patil: This is how I am developing. I shall give some facts. Even in U.K. which produces only half of its requirement of agricultural production because they have no land, even to support the price of what little they produce, they spend Rs. 40 crores by way of subsidy. So, we have to give a little subsidy. This is in the nature of subsidy. One must not mind it. This is a new experiment and as I said, this is the first electric shock.

I took up this question in 1959 and the incentive was given in 1959 after the sowing was done. So, they could not increase the area that year because the sowing was already done. The incentive was given and the price was increased from Rs. 1-7-0 to Rs. 1-10-0 to the canegrower; also, there was remission of half the excise duty to the mills, so that they could also give something more to the grower. Therefore, the production of 24 lakh tons and odd of sugar one year before this was the result not of additional land that went under cane production, because the sowing was done before the incentive came; it was because of the diversification from gur and khandsari to crystal sugar.

But what happened this year when it has gone up to 3 million tons? The area under sugarcane cultivation in 1953-54 was only 35 lakh acres. I do not take the year 1958-59 because we did not introduce our incentives then. In 1959-60, the area came to 52 lakh acres. In 1960-61, it has gone up to 57 lakh acres. The figures that we have got of this year's sowing—the cane will be ready from October or November—show that the area has gone up by 4 lakh acres more, in spite of my warning. I have repeatedly said in this House that there must be some kind of restriction so far as crops are concerned, because if you leave it to the farmer, he naturally

chooses the crop which gives the maximum advantage. Therefore, the increase of 9 lakh acres last year and this year is responsible for an additional production of about 1 million tons of sugar, because 1 acre nearly gives 1 ton. It may be a little less or little more. But what I am telling is this. If they had restricted their sowing to the land that was under cultivation and by a process of intensive cultivation increased the production, none of these difficulties would have arisen; of course, production of sugar would not have risen to that extent, it would have risen a little bit. Then every farmer would have got benefit out of it because on the same acreage he could have produced more and got more money out of it. Therefore, Government is very seriously thinking whether they could not use the Essential Commodities Act in order to empower the State Governments. They must be able to regulate all these crops, the cash crops and food crops, because otherwise the cash crops possibly would destroy the food crops and there would be such an imbalance in the agricultural economy of this country that it would be very difficult to meet it. Therefore, this position has arrived.

Now, having got this position, many people here have asked, how is it that you are talking sometimes of—I am not thinking, I think it was only in their imagination—reducing the price of sugarcane. Even assuming that, they ask why is it that you are not reducing the price of other things. The House should clearly know that I have got here exact figures, the exact percentages and figures, and wherever there is scope, I can tell you, and reduction is possible, that reduction could be made.

My hon. friend Shri Bibhuti Mishra was very vehement in saying—I am very glad to know that he is a little bit of mathematician also—that Rs. 37·85 is the price per maund of sugar and the cost of cane is only Rs. 17·61 and therefore it can never become 68 per cent. I am going to tell my hon. friend Shri Bibhuti Mishra that it is not 68 per cent but the price of cane is 70 per cent and it does not compare with the price including the excise and all that. I shall split up the figures and give you the exact mathematics of it. Therefore, the challenge does not remain.

The cost of cane including the commission of co-operative societies etc. is Rs. 17·61 as was rightly mentioned by him. The cane cess which the States charge is Rs. 2 on that. The manufacturing cost—whether it has got to be reduced or not is a different thing and I shall come to that later—is Rs. 5·75, and the gross return on capital which the Tariff Commission has given to them, you know, by way of dividend is Rs. 1·79. The excise duty is Rs. 10·70. Now you will see, as my hon. friend Shri Pande pointed out, between the cane cess and excise duty we give Rs. 12·70, which is as much as 34 to 35 per cent of the entire price that the consumer pays. Whether it should be done or not is another question. One way or the other it has to be done; either by the process of indirect taxes you help the Government by giving Rs. 46 crores or ask the Government to find some other sources for taxation, because money does not come from the clouds, it has got to be got from somewhere. This tax has been a definite revenue measure. It was intended to be so and it does give us money. It has risen from Rs. 7½ crores to Rs. 46 crores, and surely when consumption goes up it will go up to Rs. 50 crores. It is a fact. Whether you want it to be removed and create another source somewhere either for direct or indirect revenue I do not know. But that is not within my competence, it is within the competence of my hon. colleague the Finance Minister.

What I am telling is this. 30 to 35 per cent of the entire cost—I am talking of the gross including excise and cess—is by way of tax. But when you go to the actual price of sugar which is really material for export—not including the excise etc., because we do not pay any excise and even in

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the case of the cess rebate is given to the millowners and they get it back—the exact price which is called the cost of production, it is only Rs. 17·61 plus this Rs. 5·75 plus the profit of Rs. 1:79 which comes, the whole of it, to Rs. 25·15. Out of that the cane price is Rs. 17·61, and if you take the cost of cane the percentage comes to 70 per cent of the price and not 68 per cent. I worked it out very carefully. I am not saying that they should not get it. They should get it. What is wrong about it? I am not challenging them. What I am saying is this. We have got to see whether there is a possibility of reduction. What could you reduce? You cannot reduce the cost of cane, Rs. 17·61. Then you have got Rs. 5·75 which is the manufacturing cost. If a case has been made out to reduce that, I can quite understand it. Hon. Members were very right when they pointed out that when the duration of the season is longer, the overhead charges etc. become less correspondingly and the cost must go down. Therefore, the industry must be expected to make some sacrifices. Have they made such a sacrifice? That is the question. And what more sacrifices could they be expected to make.

With your permission, Sir, I would like to tell the House what sacrifice the industry has made so far and what I expect them hereafter to make. If it is possible, then we shall make them do it. Now let us hear the story as to how much really they have paid during these years. When the Wage Board award came there was no cushion anywhere, because as per the recommendations of the Tariff Commission there was no cushion. The Tariff Commission had worked out very carefully all items which go into the cost of sugar-cane and, after taking into account all such items, fixed the price at Rs. 37·85. Therefore, they said "we are not going to implement the wage board award because there is no cushion". I compelled them and I persuaded them. My persuasion was almost tantamount to compulsion that they have got to do it, whatever it is. Please do not ask me what means I adopted, but the means were powerful enough and I persuaded them to implement that. And what is the quantum of it? The quantum is Rs. 5 crores to 6 crores, which is not a small amount. Rs. 5 crores to 6 crores have gone towards the implementation of the Wage Board report, and that has come outside the Tariff Commission's recommendation, from the mill-owners.

Then, when this question of export came in, we told them "go on exporting". They exported one lakh tons of sugar and incurred a loss of more than Rs. 3 crores, as we are incurring today. They incurred it and we told them that we shall not give it. Therefore, in all they have suffered a loss of Rs. 5 crores to 6 crores plus 3 crores. I am only mentioning how much pressure I am bringing to bear on them. If there is more hydraulic pressure that this House wants me to put upon them, and if it is possible for them to bear it, surely I am prepared to do it. I am not saying that I am not prepared to do it.

Then came the question of American exports. Although they give us an additional price, Rs. 560, our cost of production is Rs. 750 or 800. Therefore, the difference of Rs. 200 has got to be found. So, we again approached them and, whether it is persuasion or compulsion on the mill-owners, we told them that they should also bear some cost out of this because their sugar is going out. We persuaded them to give 62 nP. per maund, which comes to about Rs. 16 per ton. In quantum the amount on the American export comes to somewhere about Rs. 30 lakhs.

Then there was the question of export to the Commonwealth countries. There the quantity of export was 30,000 tons and we told them "what you have done in the American

export, you have to do here also" They have done it.

Then there is the question of market fluctuations. I will tell you an incident which happened only 48 hours ago. America has got a free market where the prices fluctuate. The price of sugar ruling on a particular day was 6.50 cents per pound. Eight days after that, it came down to 6.05 cents, which means a fall of .45 cents. That means a loss of Rs. 2 crores to this industry, which is not a small thing. But, in the free market we have to face it. It is not as if the American Government fix a price and that price should be given. Of course, their price is more; that is certain. But it is quoted in the stock market and according to that price we have got to work.

Therefore, you could see that Rs. 9 crores to 10 crores has already been exacted from the mill-owners. Why? Because of the profit that they have made during the last two years. Because of the operation of the longer season, they have made a profit. Therefore, we exacted out of them something like Rs. 10 crores. So, I hope this House will not really blame me for not doing anything. In spite of this, notwithstanding all that I have done, if there is still any scope where the prices could be reduced—I am talking of this Rs. 5.75 per maund which has got to be reduced—surely I am prepared to send it to the Tariff Commission or any other competent body that my hon. friend, Shri Banerjee, suggests. I am not protecting anybody. I want my country to be protected. I want my farmers to be protected. Therefore there is no attempt whatsoever on the part of the Government that this should be done.

My hon. friend, Shri S. L. Saksena, came out with a story and repeated it again and again. My hon. friend, Shri Tyagi, very unwittingly and unknowingly walked into his net. Shri Saksena quoted some figure. He said that in 1960 the Tariff Commission gave them Rs. 15-10-0 or something like that. I do not know what it was in those days. Now they gave more. They gave Rs. 2 and odd. Therefore the millowners have got more money. But he totally forgot the basis of that and this. The basis in 1950 was entirely different from the basis on which they have given this in 1959. I shall quote their own words so that you can understand why it has gone up. According to that 10 per cent their dividend used to be 6.6 per cent. Now it has been reduced to 6 per cent and not increased by giving this money. These are their words—I quote:

> "The tempo of investment which was maintained in recent years requires to be continued and incentives provided therefor. The rate of 12 per cent determined by us as fair and reasonable will, in our view, provide sufficient funds for each units to meet its commitments. . . ."

Under how many heads?

> "under bonus and gratuity, interest on borrowed capital and debentures, divided on preference shares, managing agents, commission and income-tax and finally leave a residue. . . "

of 6 per cent. In other words, from 6.6 per cent which used to be the profit that was given, under this Report it has now been reduced to 6 per cent. I am only claiming this. It is open to anybody to say that it should not be 6 per cent and that it should be 3 per cent. If you want that I should refer it back to the Tariff Commission, I would do so. But we should not create an atmosphere as if some crores of rupees have gone somewhere, because that 10 per cent did not include many of these items. Only a few items were included. Now there are many more burdens. They say that rehabilitation also has been included although the mill-owners contest that position and say that it is not so. Therefore you could see that everything that is possible to be done

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by the Government in order to exercise pressure on the millowners so that the cost is lessened is done. The cost has been lessened. In spite of that these things have not been done.

Then what is the remedy? That I shall just now tell you. Because the position has become so very impossible we must not be non-plussed by this. If you are non-plussed by this position and if you cannot encounter this position, you cannot encounter the agricultural economy at all. If I am the Minister of Agriculture, my economy will be that I shall seek self-sufficiency in this country. But in seeking that I shall not have a mere mathematical self-sufficiency. That will put me in danger some time. I will always have 5 to 10 per cent more than what is necessary so that in the lean years I shall not be put to difficulty.

Sir, you rightly said that while there is so much sugar, why the common man does not get it; therefore, liberalise it. May I tell this House and to you that when we have known that 35 per cent of this price has increased because there is taxation, it is really the tribute which the multitude of the people pays to their Government in order to carry on the administration. If it is to be lessened, it is a different story altogether.

I said one thing very cryptically which I shall enlarge now. Liberalisation was not made because distribution was given to the States. It is the States who give it to their persons who draw it. I am not responsible for that. I cannot take the responsibility of distributing sugar to 438 million people. The States have got to be trusted. I have been writing to the States time and again. I do not know how many letters have gone during the last two years saying, "Please, for God's sake remove all these restrictions so that sugar is channelled in a very normal manner". But there is a limit to sugar going. It is true that 2 lakh to 3 lakh tons will go, but surely you cannot expect all of a sudden that it will lift from 20 lakh tons to 30 lakh tons. It cannot. It is a dangerous thing. You cannot and you must not create an artificial habit or demand by reducing the price, so that simply because it is cheap people take more and they stop taking it when the prices go up. Therefore this demand must go up by design and should not be merely something that has happened incidentally. Therefore my endeavour and the Government's endeavour hereafter would be to protect the farmer. While these stocks were gathering, people could not pay. Complaints were made here that wages or cane charges were not paid.

I have got the figures with me. As much as 94 per cent or something nearing that has already been paid. There are always some bad eggs or bad heads. There are some mills which are bad. They do not know how to run their business. They do not pay even when there is affluence everywhere. Like that some cases might have remained. But during the last two or three months they have to pay, and yet they have not to receive cane, because this is the season where they do not crush. Therefore, they have to pay for the fresh cane. But they go on receiving. Month by month this is going on. And I am quite sure. I shall be in a happy position after a month or so that there is not one naya paisa remaining of the cane charge that have got to be paid. What more do you expect from them?

Then you could say that they should have been given some more protection, more money, more funds credit, etc. Government have gone to the utmost in giving protection, and I may tell you what the nature of that protection is. The banks were giving them only 60 per cent to 70 per cent. We have brought it up to 85 per cent. But the banks have made a rule that it will be 85 per cent or Rs. 50 lakhs, whichever is the minimum. And what

is the position today? A few years ago this money which the mills took from the banks was of the order of Rs. 68 crores. Today it is Rs. 94 crores. And you can understand that for the Reserve Bank and the State Bank the sugar industry is not the only industry that has got to be protected; there are many more industries that have to be looked to. Therefore, there is such a saturation of sugar there.

So far as exports are concerned, I have explained to this House that there cannot be exports of more than half a million long tons every year, that means 6 lakh metric tons. And with the American quota which is 2.25 and which might be increased to 3 and 3½ and our international agreement quota on which the other quota depends, it will be of the order of about 2 lakhs, and we shall have about half a million.

Now, do you really grudge this? Does this House grudge it? In a country where 9 million tons of sugar is produced, if half a million tons of sugar has got to be sent, surely we must be prepared for it. That half a million tons of sugar will give us somewhere about 60 million dollars as the price of it, although it may not be economic. But 60 million dollars coming every year will service and amortise a loan of 600 million dollars. We have been taking loans. And what do we look to in order to service and amortise those loans in the limited or stipulated period? We must create new sources. We cannot simply overstrain the sources of our tea or jute or cotton that we have got. Everyday our mind must work on creating new sources. And if in the agricultural economy and in the plenty that we are producing in this country in the wisdom of our farmers, which is responsible for these results, we produce a new source by which we can service and amortise our loan, surely nobody, and not this House, will grudge it.

This is the story of sugar, Sir. Therefore, one need not be afraid because this shock has come. I am prepared to have all the shocks. Unless we are prepared to have these shocks and meet them adequately, liberalisation will come. If I am not having it immediately it may come tomorrow or the day after. There must be some reason. Nobody will accuse me in this House that I am a friend of controls and that somehow or other I want to have these controls. Nobody would be more happy than myself the day these controls are removed. And therefore you must understand—although it is a sweet subject it is a very delicate subject—you must understand that there are different kinds of factories. On the one side there is a factory which makes crores of profit, an excellent factory. On the other side there is a factory which is a miserable factory. Out of 160 odd factories that we have got, there are fifty or sixty which are of that type. And ultimately the pace of progress is not of the fast but of the slowest one. And that is how my difficulty comes in. When I apply one kind of method it acts differently on the other type of customer.

Therefore, I must do something so that the total effect of it will not be the destruction of the sugar industry and the destruction of the farmer. I wish to assure this House that so far as the interests of the farmers are concerned none will protect them better than this Government.

Shri S. L. Saksena: Sir, just one word.....

Mr. Speaker: I will not allow it. The House stands adjourned till 11 a.m. tomorrow.

18.15 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, August 11, 1961/Sravana 20, 1883 (Saka).

[*Thursday, August* 10, 1961/*Sravana* 19, 1883(*Saka*)

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607.	Watch factory in J. & K. State	1226
608.	Joint Management Councils	1226-27
609.	New division for Africa in External Affairs Ministry	1227
610	Concentration of Economic Power	1227

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS—*contd.*

U.S.Q. No.	Subject	COLUMNS
611.	Loss of files regarding allotment of evacuee land in in the Punjab	1228
612.	Deportation of Indian political prisoners to Portugal	1228-29
613.	Allocation of spindlage and loomage in Madras	1229
614.	Closure of textile mills	1229
615.	Influx o Tibetans	1230
616.	Trade with Russia	1230
617.	Diplomatic relations with North and South Korea	1231
618.	Hospital at Bangalore under Employees' State Insurance Scheme.	1231-32
619	Quarters for coal miners	1232
620	Consumer price index numbers	1233
621.	Goa Week	1233-34
622	South East Asian States Association	1234
623	Haj Pilgrims	2134-35
624.	Speeches and writings of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose	1235
625.	Repairs to residences of Members of Planning Commission	1236
626.	Coolers supplied to Ministers etc.	1236
627.	Quarters in Gole Market area	1236-37
628	Code of Discipline	1237-38
629	National Productivity Council	1238
630	Fact-Finding Mission in Cango	1239
631.	Double-storey quarters for Delhi slum-dwellers	1239
632.	Broadcasts for West Asia and South-East Asia	1240
633.	Allotment of quarters	1240-41
634.	Local development works in Orissa	1241
635.	Sikkim House in Delhi	1241-42
636	India Foreign Service	1242
637	Retrenchment in Rehabilitation Ministry	1242-43
638	Educated unemployed in Kerala	1243-44
639	Jeeps	1244
640	Registered unemployed persons	1244-45
641.	Export of cotton	1245
642.	Industrial flour mill machinery	1245-46
643.	Export of cotton	1246
644.	Exports to Singapore	1247
645	Receiving centres at Jorhat and Shillong	1247-48
646	Medium Wave Transmitter at Jorhat	1248
647	Imports from Belgium	1248-49
648	Promotion of exports	1250
649	Burragarh colliery	1250
650	International Silk Congress in London	1250-51
651.	United Provinces Commercial Corporation	1251-52
652.	Production of automobiles	1252
653.	Import of goods by the State Trading Corporation	1252
654.	Industrial Disputes in Punjab	1253
655.	Small scale industries	1253-54
656.	Newsprint industry	1254
657	Foutain pens	1255
658	Yarn factories in U.P.	1255
659	Poverty in Eastern Uttar Pradesh	1256
660.	Use of Hindi in Ministry of External Affairs	1256-57
661.	Use of Hindi in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry	1257
662.	Type purchased by Government Presses	1257-58
633.	Shortage of Hindi types in Government Presses	1258
664.	Press Clippings	1259
665.	Joint Management Councils	1259-60
666.	Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund	1260
667.	Autonomous and Semi-autonomous Bodies	1260-61
668.	Age-limit for employment seekers	1261-62
669.	Employees' Provident Fund Scheme.	1262
670.	Textile Industry in Gujerat	1263
671.	Trade agreement	1263-64
672.	U.N.O.	1264-65
673.	Trade Commission in Kuwait	1265-66

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS—*contd.*

U.S.Q. No.	Subject	COLUMNS
674.	Construction of roads in Sikkim	1256
675.	Families settled in Dandakaranya	1267
676.	Tea exports	1267–68
677.	Shri G.D. Birla's visit to U.S.S.R.	1268
678	Industrial Units in Punjab	1269
679.	Bengal Deshi Cotton	1269
680.	Export of consumer and semi-processed goods to Russia and East European countries	1269–70
681	Press Conference in Dehra Dun	1270–71
682.	Restoration of property to Muslim evacuees	1271
683.	Machine Building Industry	1271–72
684.	Orissa Agrico Ltd.	1272
685.	Tibetan refugees	1273
686.	Employees' State Insurance Scheme	1273–74
687.	Transfer of C.P.W.D. workers	1274
688.	Public sector projects	1275
689.	Sholapur Spinning and Weaving Mills Ltd.	1275–76
690.	Small scale industries	1276
691.	Demolition of boundary walls in Lodi colony	1277
692.	Demolition of Servants' quarters on Akbar Road, New Delhi	1277–78
693.	Electrical and mechanical sub-divisions	1278–79
694.	Electrical and Horticultural sub-Divisions	1279
695.	Fertilizers Factory in Gujarat	1279–80
696.	Evacuee land in Delhi	1280
	PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	1281–82

(1) A copy of Government Resolution No. 4(15) Tex (c)/60, published in the Gazette dated the 5th May, 1961 on Report of the Working Group appointed by the Government to assess the progress made by the Handloom Industry and to make recommendations for its further development.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—*contd.*

COLUMNS

(2) A copy each of the following papers:

(*i*) The Central Silk Board (Recruitment) Rules, 1961 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 976 dated the 29th July, 1961, under sub-section (3) of section 13 of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948.

(*ii*) (*a*) Annual Report of the Hindustan Salt Company Limited, Jaipur, for th year 1959-60 along with Audited Accounts and the cemments of the comptroller and Auditor General thereon, under sub-section (1) of section 639 of the Companies Act, 1956

(*b*) Review by the Government of the working of the above Company.

(3) A copy of the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Rules, 1961, pulished in Notification No. G.S.R. 779 dated the 10th June, 1961, under sub-section (3) of section 13 of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1956

(4) A copy each of the following papers:

(*i*) The Industrial Disputes (Central Amendment Rules, 1961, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 857 dated the 1st July, 1961, under sub-section (4) of section 38 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

(*ii*) Main conclusions of the Eighth Session of the Industrial Committee on Coal Mining held at New Delhi in April, 1961.

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE PRESENTED 1282

Report of Select Committee on the Income-tax Bill, 1961 was presented.

COLUMNS COLUMNS

EVIDENCE ON BILL—LAID ON THE TABLE . . 1282

Shri Jaganatha Rao laid on the Table a copy of the evidence given before the Select Committee on the Income-tax Bill, 1961.

BILLS INTRODUCED . . 1283

(1) The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 1961.

(2) The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1961.

BILLS PASSED . . . 1284—1376

(i) The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva) moved for consideration of the Union Territories (Stamp and Court Fees Laws) Bill. The motion was adopted. After clause-by-clause consideration the Bill was passed.

(ii) The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali) moved for consideration of the Minimum Wages (Amendment) Bill, as passed by Rajya Sabha. The motion was adopted. After clause-by-clause consideration the Bill, as amended, was passed.

(iii) The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo) moved for consideration of the Salt Cess (Amendment) Bill, 1961. The motion was adopted. After clause-by-clause consideration the Bill was passed.

BILL UNDER CONSIDERATION . . . 1376—1408

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali) moved that the Maternity Benefit Bill, 1960, as reported by the Joint Committee be taken into consideration. The discussion was not concluded.

DISCUSSION RE. PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, EXPORT AND PRICE FIXATION OF SUGAR . 1408—44

Further discussion on the production, distribution, export and price-fixation of sugar raised by Shri S.M. Banerjee on 9th August 1961 was resumed. The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S.K. Patil) replied to the debate, and the discussion concluded.

AGENDA FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 1961/SRAVANA 20, 1883 (Saka)—

Discussion on the motion re. Report of Aligarh Muslim University Enquiry Committee and consideration of the Private Members' Resolutions.

GIPND—L.S.II—771 (Ai) LSD—22-8-61—885.